Form No 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 30 1978
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Torrance School

AND/OR COMMON
Torrance High School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2200 West Carson
__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Torrance
__ VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
32nd

STATE
California
CODE
06
COUNTY
Los Angeles
CODE
037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Torrance Unified School District

STREET & NUMBER
2335 Plaza Del Amo

CITY, TOWN
Torrance
__ VICINITY OF
STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Los Angeles County Archives, Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
222 North Hill Street, Room B212

CITY, TOWN
Los Angeles
STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Torrance Historic Resources Inventory, partially funded by State Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY XX LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Torrance Historical Society Museum, 1345 Post Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Torrance
STATE
California

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Torrance High School is located at the western end of El Prado park, facing the old Pacific Electric station at the far eastern end of the avenue. El Prado is lined with mature palm trees. The High School opens into and is a distinct visual element of this scenic vista. The High School grounds are landscaped in a variety of flowering shrubs, conifers, and palms, adding to the park-like atmosphere of the El Prado area. The buildings and grounds of the school are extremely well maintained.

The school consists of a complex of buildings and structures ranging in age from 1917 to the 1960's. The original building consists of a two-story structure designed in the Mediterranean style and influenced by both Classical and Spanish Colonial design elements. The form is rectangular with the central two-story mass flanked by one-story wings.

The main entrance is the dominant element of the building's facade. It consists of a set of layered elements; a large pediment with cornice, a cofferred arch, a flat window with pediment above, a large arched fanlight, and a flat door opening. The doorway is flanked by paired columns supporting a broken cornice at the first story level.

Alterations to the facade are minor. They consist primarily of modifications to window and door openings. The original design intent is still clearly evident. Two lamps of a more recent vintage flank the central doorway.

A detached building is located to the north and behind the original structure. This building is designed in a similar style to the original and is visually connected by means of a semi-circular collonade.

An addition also adjoins the original structure to the rear, forming a slightly offset "T" shaped configuration. The southern side of the area formed by the intersection of the two structures has been designed as a patio area with tile fountain, benches, brick patio, and an arched portico with balcony above. This addition is also designed in a style compatible with and similar to the original.

Other additions consist of classrooms, an assembly hall, administration facilities, and a physical education area. These buildings are designed in a variety of architectural styles ranging from a deco influenced WPA Moderne to a 1960's utilitarian structure influenced by the corporate international style. The entire complex is linked visually and functionally by landscaping, and by pathways and porticos. The whole forms an interesting and unique visual arrangement which is ultimately one of the most prominent in Torrance.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Allen Farrell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Torrance High School, the oldest high school in the city, has played a vital role in Torrance's development since its opening in 1917. Not only was it the first high school in Torrance, but it was the only one until 1955. It has been in continuous use through the years. With its recent refurbishing, Torrance Unified School District officials plan for the school to have a long and progressive future as part of Torrance's secondary educational system.

In the spring of 1916, the Torrance community made plans to develop a new school system to replace its several "one-room schoolhouse" facilities. As an inducement, they offered the Los Angeles City School Board a choice nine-acre site, at the end of El Prado, originally intended for a civic center. Because the property was reasonably priced, adjacent to a beautifully landscaped park, and because the community anticipated a student population of over 2000 within a few years, the Los Angeles City School District purchased the land and, in 1917, constructed a new school building.

Long range plans called for a total expenditure of $250,000. The first unit, opened to students on September 11, 1917, and completed December 23, 1917, was named Torrance School and included all grades from kindergarten through high school. Constructed at a cost of $34,230 it was designed to readily incorporate future additions. It provided seven classrooms, a principal's office and a makeshift auditorium which could be improvised by sliding partitions between the kindergarten and primary rooms. The school's first principal was Thomas H. Elson, and the first commencement was held on June 18, 1918, with two graduates, Elizabeth Byrnes and Marguerite Paour.

In 1921, a rear addition designed by E. H. Cline was built at a cost of $38,849. Later referred to as the "Senior Patio", the addition included a brick patio with a tile fountain and benches. A long standing tradition dictates that only Seniors (12th grade students) are permitted to congregate or cross the site.

The completion of the Torrance School complex began in the fall of 1922 when a second tract of 17 acres was purchased by the Los Angeles City School District. Contracting with the architects Farrell and Miller (Farrell had designed the main building), $200,000 was allocated by the District to add two wings to the main building. The school

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment A

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25.94

QUADRANGLE NAME Torrance, Calif. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	11	377640	374920	B	11	377820	374020
C	11	377820	374020	D	11	377880	374920
E	11	377960	373840	F	11	378040	373840
G	11	378040	374640	H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Torrance High School is shown as the red line on the accompanying map, Attachment B.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

See Attachment C

ORGANIZATION DATE

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

s the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I reby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Kenn M Ellen

TITLE DATE 5-16-79

NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

EST: DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

population in 1922 was only 537 students -- an increase of 114 in one year -- but a campaign to build 3000 new homes to house Torrance factory workers promised a much larger influx of students in the near future.

When completed, the school complex included thirty classrooms, an auditorium, "assessory compartments", laboratories for the physical and natural sciences, shops, and home economics facilities. In 1923, after Torrance Elementary School was built, Torrance School was converted into a high school. A three-fold instructional program offered regular academic and commercial courses together with shop, mechanical drawing, serving, and agriculture.

In 1933, an earthquake destroyed the east wing, and the auditorium and collonade had to be demolished. The west wing and collonade were unaffected, and remain intact and well-preserved today. Other buildings have been added to the Torrance High School Campus, including a number of support structures designed in a variety of architectural styles.

Beginning in 1974, major rehabilitation and restoration work totalling over two million dollars was focused on the main building, preserving and enhancing the building's unique architecture.

The location of Torrance High School in relation to the older downtown Torrance community is of particular importance. The City of Torrance is one of a handful of planned communities in the United States and was first envisioned as a model garden-industrial city by its founders. The original city plans were designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston, Massachusetts, sons of the celebrated landscape architect Frederic Law Olmsted.

The Olmsteds' plan called for the separation of residential, industrial, and commercial sectors. A long boulevard, the El Prado, divided the downtown business district extending through the residential area as a common. It was aligned to frame Mr. San Antonio and the San Gabriel Mountains fifty miles to the northeast. Two buildings were planned to face each other across this impressive stretch of parkway: the railroad depot and the city hall. The city hall was never built on this site; instead, Torrance School was situated on the most scenic parcel in the downtown area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 8

Torrance High School became part of the Torrance Unified School District when voters elected to become a unified school district on January 23, 1948.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 30 1979
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES 9

Chase, John, and Roger Hatheway. The Torrance Historic Resources Survey: Research Guide and Field Manual. City of Torrance, 1978.

Coil, Vernon, City Clerk. History of Torrance, Part I. City of Torrance.

Halls, Bob, Los Angeles City School District, Interview, February 1979.

Justice, Mike, "Structural Changes of Torrance High Over the Years", Torrance Historical Society Museum.

Los Angeles Times Articles
March 21, 1916, P.2, P.7.
December 23, 1917, P.I, p.9
October 22, 1922, P.V, p.13
November 19, 1922, P.IV, p.6
June 28, 1928, P.II, p.21
March 4, 1930, P.II, p.5

Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Rolls and Maps.

Torrance Herald. Torrance on Review, Silver Anniversary Edition. Torrance Herald, 1936.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 30 1979
DATE ENTERED

FORM PREPARED BY: 11

Don Fulton
Torrance High School Alumni Association
P. O. Box 527
Torrance, California 90508

Carolyne Campbell and Holly Hamlin
Historic Resources Survey Coordinators
City of Torrance Planning Department
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, California 90503
(213) 328-5310, X295

Roger Hatheway
Architectural Consultant
Historic Resources Survey
(213) 479-1250

Property Torrance School

State CA. (Los Angeles) Working Number 5.30.79.1304

TECHNICAL **CONTROL**

Photos 12

Maps 1,2

state requests that this nomination be returned for addition of updated material

HISTORIAN

return
Patrick Andrus
for/Joe Tonner 5/22/79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back 6.5.79 Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED MAY 3 0 1978
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Torrance School

AND/OR COMMON
Torrance High School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2200 West Carson — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Torrance — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
32nd

STATE
California — CODE 06 — COUNTY Los Angeles — CODE 037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
_DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	_AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
_SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	_GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	_YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Torrance Unified School District

STREET & NUMBER
2335 Plaza Del Amo

CITY, TOWN
Torrance — VICINITY OF — STATE
California 90501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Los Angeles County Archives, Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
222 North Hill Street, Room B212

CITY, TOWN
Los Angeles — STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Torrance Historic Resources Inventory, partially funded by State Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

_FEDERAL X STATE _COUNTY XX LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Torrance Historical Society Museum, 1345 Post Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Torrance — STATE
California

State Office of Historic Preservation, p. O. Box 2390, Sacramento CA 95811

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Torrance High School is located at the western end of El Prado park, facing the old Pacific Electric station at the far eastern end of the avenue. El Prado is lined with mature palm trees. The High School opens into and is a distinct visual element of this scenic vista. The High School grounds are landscaped in a variety of flowering shrubs, conifers, and palms, adding to the park-like atmosphere of the El Prado area. The buildings and grounds of the school are extremely well maintained.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	X LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1917 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Allen Farrell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Torrance High School, the oldest high school in the city, has played a vital role in Torrance's development since its opening in 1917. Not only was it the first high school in Torrance, but it was the only one until 1955. It has been in continuous use through the years. With its recent refurbishing, Torrance Unified School District officials plan for the school to have a long and progressive future as part of Torrance's secondary educational system.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attachment A

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9±

QUADRANGLE NAME Torrance, Calif. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	11	378100	3744200	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundary of Torrance High School Campus is shown as the red line on Attachment B. The location of the nomination site within the campus complex is shown on Attachment D.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

See Attachment C

ORGANIZATION DATE

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Kenn M. Ellen

TITLE DATE 5-16-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE' * 8

population in 1922 was only 537 students -- an increase of 114 in one year -- but a campaign to build 3000 new homes to house Torrance factory workers promised a much larger influx of students in the near future.

When completed, the school complex included thirty classrooms, an auditorium, "assessory compartments", laboratories for the physical and natural sciences, shops, and home economics facilities. In 1923, after Torrance Elementary School was built, Torrance School was converted into a high school. A three-fold instructional program offered regular academic and commercial courses together with shop, mechanical drawing, serving, and agriculture.

In 1933, an earthquake destroyed the east wing, and the auditorium and collonade had to be demolished. The west wing and collonade were unaffected, and remain intact and well-preserved today. Other buildings have been added to the Torrance High School Campus, including a number of support structures designed in a variety of architectural styles.

Beginning in 1974, major rehabilitation and restoration work totalling over two million dollars was focused on the main building, preserving and enhancing the building's unique architecture.

The location of Torrance High School in relation to the older downtown Torrance community is of particular importance. The City of Torrance is one of a handful of planned communities in the United States and was first envisioned as a model garden-industrial city by its founders. The original city plans were designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston, Massachusetts, sons of the celebrated landscape architect Frederic Law Olmsted.

The Olmsteds' plan called for the separation of residential, industrial, and commercial sectors. A long boulevard, the El Prado, divided the downtown business district extending through the residential area as a common. It was aligned to frame Mr. San Antonio and the San Gabriel Mountains fifty miles to the northeast. Two buildings were planned to face each other across this impressive stretch of parkway: the railroad depot and the city hall. The city hall was never built on this site; instead, Torrance School was situated on the most scenic parcel in the downtown area.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 8

Torrance High School became part of the Torrance Unified School District when voters elected to become a unified school district on January 23, 1948.

summary

Torrance High School is significant as the oldest, and until 1955 the only, high school in Torrance. Since its opening in1917 it has been in continuous use as an educational facility and has played a vital role in the City's development. Unique to Torrance, the architecture of the main building is composed of Mediterranian, Spanish colonial, and Classical elements, and further adds to the school's overall significance. Furthermore, Torrance High School is an impressive local landmark, occupying the most visible site in the expertly planned and landscaped downtown core area. Designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston, Massechusetts, the City of Torrance was conceived as a "modern garden-industrial city" by its developers. The Olmsted's city plan, in conjunction with buildings designed by Irving J. Gill, the city's original architect, now classifies Torrance as one of a small handful of cities with auspicious origins in early city planning and architecture.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES 9

Chase, John, and Roger Hatheway. The Torrance Historic Resources Survey: Research Guide and Field Manual. City of Torrance, 1978.

Coil, Vernon, City Clerk. History of Torrance, Part I. City of Torrance.

Halls, Bob, Los Angeles City School District, Interview, February 1979.

Justice, Mike, "Structural Changes of Torrance High Over the Years", Torrance Historical Society Museum.

Los Angeles Times Articles
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June 28, 1928, P.II, p.21
March 4, 1930, P.II, p.5

Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Rolls and Maps.

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ATTACHMENT C

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 1979
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FORM PREPARED BY: 11

Don Fulton
Torrance High School Alumni Association
P. O. Box 527
Torrance, California 90508

Carolyne Campbell and Holly Hamlin
Historic Resources Survey Coordinators
City of Torrance Planning Department
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, California 90503
(213) 328-5310, X295

Roger Hatheway
Architectural Consultant
Historic Resources Survey
(213) 479-1250

NAME OF PROPERTY Torrance School STATE CA.

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office f clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINAT IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: Please provide dates for all of the buildings (A through P, on sketch map) and an assessment of whether they meet the criteria for listing - of particular interest is the mid-1930's WPA Moderne Auditorium. Just the buildings are nominated - is the original campus setting historically

8 Statement of Significance: significant? If so, please consider revising the boundary to include the building's historic setting.

9 Bibliography:

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage:

UTM Reference(s):

Verbal Boundary Description:

12 Certification:

Photographic Coverage: Please provide a photo of the nominated Home Economics Building (bldg. I)

Map Coverage:

Other: This nomination came in under the old notification regulations - Dec. 31, 1980 was the deadline for additional info. to be received on these nominations - the above info. was requested on 5/14/1980 and has never been received. This (over).

~~Reinstitution/30 Amendments~~

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Patrick Andrus

on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Grosvenor for Chief, Registration Branch

Date: 2/23/81

nomination will have to be reprocessed under the new notification procedures in conformity with the 1980 amendments to the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Property Torrance School

2nd Central

State CA - Los Angeles Working Number 5.30.79.1304

TECHNICAL

Photos 12

Maps 12

CONTROL

more information on the remaining school buildings is needed - question over the school grounds (need to include campus) need photo of nominated Home Ec. building

HISTORIAN

return Patrick Andrus 1/13/81

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back 2-23-81 Entered _____

Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit _____

United States Department of the Interior - Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received AUG 31 1983
date entered

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

RECEIVED FEB 16 1983

Ferial

1. Name

historic Torrance School

OHP

and/or common ~~Historic Resources of the~~ Torrance High School Campus ~~(Thematic Nomination)~~

2. Location

street & number 2200 West Carson — N/A not for publication

city, town Torrance — N/A vicinity of — congressional district 32nd

state CA — code 06 — county Los Angeles — code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	x educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
X Thematic	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Torrance Unified School District

street & number 2335 Plaza Del Amo

city, town Torrance — N/A vicinity of — state CA 90501

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 222 North Hill Street, Room B-212

city, town Los Angeles — state CA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Torrance Historic Resources Inventory, partially funded by State Office of Historic Preservation — has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date March 1979 — ___ federal X state ___ county X local

depository for survey records Torrance Historical Society Museum, 1345 Post Avenue

city, town Torrance — state CA

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL

Summary

Torrance High School is located on a 9-acre, landscaped site at the end of El Prado Park near Downtown Torrance. The campus includes three well-preserved structures in Mediterranean styling built between 1917 and 1923, an auditorium in PWA Moderne that dates from 1938, and a variety of more recent structures built (or significantly remodeled) between 1952 and 1970. Because of the large number of newer buildings, the 4 significant structures are being nominated in a limited thematic format.

MAIN BUILDING (A)* UTM: 11/377820/3744000 Acreage: 0.5

The Main Building, built in 1917, was the first building on the high school campus. It is a two-story structure designed in the Mediterranean styling and influenced by both Classical and Spanish Colonial design elements. The form is rectangular with the central two-story mass flanked by one-story wings.

The main entrance is the dominant element of the building's facade. It consists of a set of layered elements; a large pediment with cornice, a cofferred arch, a flat window with pediment above, a large arched fanlight, and a flat door opening. The doorway is flanked by paired columns supporting a broken cornice at the first story level.

Alterations to the facade are minor. They consist primarily of modifications to window and door openings. The original design intent is still clearly evident. Two lamps of a more recent vintage flank the central doorway.

A detached building (the Home Economics Building) is located to the north and behind the original structure. This building is visually connected by means of a semi-circular colonnade, included in the nomination.

An addition also adjoins the original structure to the rear, forming a slightly offset "T" shaped configuration. The southern side of the area formed by the intersection of the two structures has been designed as a patio area with tile fountain, benches brick patio, and an arched portico with balcony above. This addition is also designed in a style compatible with and similar to the original.

HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING (B) UTM: 11/377760/3744030 Acreage: 0.3

The Home Economics Building at Torrance High School is in Mediterranean styling with classical detailing. This building dates from 1923.

The two-story cast-in-place concrete structure exhibits bold rectilinear massing which gives it a strong monumental quality. The exterior walls are painted white while the hip roof is steeply pitched and uses red

*Note: Building letter designations are keyed to locations on site plan.

Spanish clay tiles. The building is internally organized with a straightforward double-loaded corridor on both floors.

Ornamentation of the facades is restrained. An entablature is suggested where the walls and roof meet by two moulding-like rain gutters. The main northeast facade is composed in the 2:1:2 proportion. A large three-inch deep rectangular recess on either side of the entry accentuates this proportional system while modulating the wall surface. In the center of the facade, a seven-step staircase leads to a shallow portico of the Tuscan order. This portico is three feet deep with one free-standing column on either side of the doorway supporting an entablature. Two pilasters are shadowed behind the columns on the wall. The entablature supports a finial, rather than a pediment, located directly above each column. Above the portico there is a vertical rectangular window trimmed with a shouldered architrave and a balcony railing.

There is no ornament on the other three facades except for the rain gutter entablature. Fenestration consists of large vertical rectangular windows on the northwest and southeast facades. The southwest facade is proportioned in the same manner as the main northeast facade, but is missing a portico and surface articulation.

Alterations include sun control louvers and solar glass double doors and windows on the southeast fenestration. A building exit and steel staircase from the second floor were added to the southwest facade to conform to Uniform Building Code's requirements. While these alterations adversely affect the original design of the building, they are reversible.

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX (TORRANCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL) (K) UTM: 11/378000/3743690 Acreage: 1 acre

The Torrance High School Annex is an L-shaped cast-in-place concrete structure. It is designed in an Italian Renaissance style and was completed incrementally between 1923 and 1925.

The two-story building has two virtually identical entrances located at the one-third points of its principal east facade. Each entrance is of a vertical proportion with a broad pilaster on either side of the doorway, supporting a simple entablature and pediment. Above each doorway is a vertical rectangular window without ornament. Fenestration is grouped into large horizontal rectangular segments separated by pilaster strips which run vertically the full height of the facade.

At the north end of the long, rectangular building, an auditorium extends to the west at 90 degrees to form the leg of the "L". This auditorium employs Palladian window motifs as opposed to rectilinear groupings, but is otherwise consistent with the rest of the building. It is, however, lower in height. The roof of both portions of the edifice

use Spanish clay tile.

In the angle of the "L", there is a back door entrance which is indicated by a loggia. This loggia is built of simple wood post and beam construction.

The only apparent alteration to the building is the addition of horizontal galvanized metal louvers over all the windows on the east facade. This addition is virtually inconsistent with the rhythm and aesthetic principles of the entire building, but can be removed.

AUDITORIUM (ASSEMBLY HALL) (AUD) UTM: 11/377880/3743890 Acreage: 0.4

The Torrance High School Assembly Hall, completed in 1938, is an example of the PWA Moderne style, which was popular in the 1930's for public school buildings. The PWA Moderne style draws from the Zig Zag Moderne style of the 1920's, the Streamline Moderne of the early 1930's and the Neo-Classical style popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The structure is cast-in-place concrete painted white.

The main entrance to the Hall has a lintel with a stylized relief inscription supported by two piers forming three deep-set bays on the facade. Within each bay is a set of double doors which open into the hall's foyer. Above each doorway is a bas-relief, depicting stylized pedagogic scenes which are illuminated at night by an incandescent fixture concealed by an ornamental acanthus leaf. A corrugated architrave follows the upper edge of the walls, punctuated by engaged piers or pilasters, which suggest trabiated construction. The southwest and northwest walls of the foyer are actually quarter-cylinders which connect the principle volume of the foyer to the auditorium.

Fenestration consists of large vertical slits which are repeated throughout the building. In the foyer these slits are found in the quarter-cylinder elements and are glazed with transparent lites. In the auditorium volume these slits occur two-to-a-bay and are glazed with glass block. The Assembly Hall appears to be in general good repair, with the exception of some cracked and poorly matched replacement glass blocks.

Building	Label on Plot Plan	Date of Construction
*Main Building	(A)	1917
*Home Economics	(B)	1923
*Torrance High School Annex	(K)	1923
*Auditorium	(AUD)	1938
Classroom Bungalow	(C)	1952
Classroom Bungalow	(D)	1952
Classroom Bungalow	(E)	1952
Cafeteria	(CAFE)	1954
Administration Building	(G)	1963
Boys' Gymnasium	(I)	1936 (altered)
Girls' Gymnasium	(L)	1965
Science Building	(M)	1965
Industrial Arts Building	(N)	1965
Music Building	(J)	1966
Library	(X)	1970
Classroom Building	(Y)	1970

*Nominated buildings

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1917-1938 **~~Builder~~/Architect** Robert A. Farrell, Farrell & Miller, E. H. Cline, Wesley Eager

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL

Summary

Torrance High School is significant as the oldest, and until 1955 the only, high school in Torrance. Since its opening in 1917, it has been in continuous use as an educational facility and has played a vital role in the City's development. The present high school campus was constructed over a 50-year period and today includes 16 buildings, 12 of which were built (or significantly and irreversibly altered) since 1950. Although the whole campus is discussed in this statement, only four buildings are singled out for nomination to the National Register: the Main Building (1917), the Home Economics Building (1923), the Torrance High School Annex (1923), and the Auditorium (1938).

Torrance High School is an impressive local landmark, occupying the most visible site in the expertly planned and landscaped downtown core area. Designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston, Massachusetts, the City of Torrance was conceived as a "modern garden-industrial city" by its developers. The Olmsteds' city plan, in conjunction with buildings designed by Irving J. Gill, the city's original architect, now classifies Torrance as one of a small handful of cities with auspicious origins in early "City" Beautiful" planning.

Torrance High School, the oldest high school in the city, has played a vital role in Torrance's development since its opening in 1917. Not only was it the first high school in Torrance, but it was the only one until 1955. It has been in continuous use through the years. Torrance Unified School District officials plan for the school to have a long and progressive future as part of Torrance's secondary educational system.

In the spring of 1916, the Torrance community made plans to develop a new school system to replace its several "one-room schoolhouse" facilities. As an inducement, they offered the Los Angeles City School Board a choice nine-acre site, at the end of El Prado, originally intended for a civic center. Because the property was reasonably priced, adjacent to a beautifully landscaped park, and because the community anticipated a student population of over 2,000 within a few years, the Los Angeles City School District purchased the land and, in 1917, constructed a new school building.

The Main Building (A) was opened to students as Torrance School in 1917. In 1921, a rear addition was constructed. In 1923, two new buildings were completed. One was an auditorium and the other a structure now known as the Home Economics Building (B).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attachment A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.2

Quadrangle name Torrance, CA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	377820	374400
K	11	38000	3743690
E			
G			
B	11	377760	3744030
AUD	11	377880	3743890
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of Torrance High School campus is shown as the red line on Attachment B. The boundaries of the nominated buildings within the campus complex are marked with a red line on Attachment D.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See Attachment C

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89–665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature K M Ellen

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/29/83

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listings date 10/13/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

When completed, the school complex included thirty classrooms, an auditorium, "assessory compartments", laboratories for the physical and natural sciences, shops, and home economics facilities. In 1923, after Torrance Elementary School was built, on the property, the original Torrance School was converted into a high school. A three-fold instructional program offered regular academic and commercial courses together with shop, mechanical drawing, sewing, and agriculture.

The first auditorium was destroyed by an earthquake in 1933. It was replaced in 1938 with a WPA Moderne structure (AUD) designed by Wesley Eager. The Boys' Gymnasium (I), designed by the same architect, was built in 1936. (It was significantly and irreversibly altered in 1965 and again, after a fire, in 1970.) Three classroom bungalows (C, D, and E) were added in 1952. A cafeteria (CAFE) was built in 1954.

From 1950 to 1970, the population of Torrance grew from 22,241 to 134,584. During this period, the school age population multiplied eightfold, from 4,515 to 36,504. By the early 1960's, three more high schools had been built in Torrance. Still more space was needed. An expansion program was begun. From 1963 to 1970, Torrance High School facilities were expanded to nearly two and a half times their previous size, from approximately 110,000 square feet to about 260,000 square feet of floor space.

The Administration Building (G) was built in 1963. The same year the Torrance Elementary School building (K), built in 1923, was annexed to the high school after 40 years' continuous use as an elementary school.

The Girls' Gymnasium (L), the Science Building (M), and a new Industrial Arts Building (N) were built in 1965. At the same time additions were made to the Boys' Gymnasium.

In 1966, the Music Building (J) was built. In 1970, a Library (X) and a classroom building with an adjoining wing (Y) were built. To make room for these two new buildings, an old Gymnasium, built in 1926, and an old Industrial Arts building, constructed in 1929, were demolished. (The location of these two former buildings, designed by A.S. Nibecker, is marked with a broken blue line on the plot plan.)

Although the Torrance High School campus has undergone considerable changes since its inception in 1917, it remains an important place in the city. The historic significance of the campus is expressed in the remaining original structures, especially in the Main Building and attached Home Economics Building.

The location of Torrance High School, in relation to the older downtown Torrance community, is of particular importance. The City of Torrance is

one of a handful of planned communities in the United States and was first envisioned as a model garden-industrial city by its founders. The original city plans were designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston, Massachusetts, sons of the celebrated landscape architect Frederic Law Olmsted.

The Olmsteds' plan called for the separation of residential, industrial, and commercial sectors. A long boulevard, the El Prado, divided the downtown business district extending through the residential area as a common. It was aligned to frame Mt. San Antonio and the San Gabriel Mountains fifty miles to the northeast. Two buildings were planned to face each other across this impressive stretch of parkway: the railroad depot and the city hall. The city hall was never built on this site; instead, Torrance School was situated on the most scenic parcel in the downtown area.

Because of the new construction described above, the few remaining early structures are dispersed throughout the campus and are being nominated individually in a limited thematic format.

MAIN BUILDING (A) Architect: ROBERT ALLEN FARRELL

The Main Building was the first, and originally the only, building of Torrance High School. Named Torrance School and accommodating students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade, it opened on September 11, 1917, and was completed December 23, 1917. Constructed at a cost of $34,230, it was designed to readily incorporate future additions. It provided seven classrooms, a principal's office, and a makeshift auditorium which could be improvised by sliding partitions between the kindergarten and primary rooms.

In 1921, a rear addition designed by E.H. Cline was built at a cost of $38,849. Later referred to as the "Senior Patio," the addition included a brick patio with a tile fountain and benches. A long-standing tradition dictates that only Seniors (12th grade students) are permitted to congregate or cross the site. Two one-story wings were also added to the building.

Beginning in 1974, major rehabilitation and restoration work totalling over two million dollars was focused on the Main Building, preserving and enhancing the building's unique architecture.

HOME ECONOMICS BUILDING (B) Architects: Farrell and Miller

The Home Economics Building was added to the school as part of a $200,000 construction program begun in 1922. At that time, the school population was only 537 students - an increase of 114 in one year - but a campaign to build 3,000 new homes to house Torrance factory workers promised a much larger influx of students in the near future. The Los Angeles City School District purchased 17 adjoining acres of land and contracted with Farrell and Miller to design two additional buildings for the school.

The whole project included two separate structures, one to the east of the Main Building and one to the west, each connected to the Main Building with a

colonnade. The east building was an auditorium. The one on the west was the present Home Economics Building.

In 1933, an earthquake so damaged the Auditorium and the eastern colonnade that they had to be demolished. The Home Economics Building and the colonnade connecting it to the Main Building were unaffected and remain intact and well-preserved today.

TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX (Torrance Elementary School)(K) Architect: E.H. Cline

The Torrance High School Annex, some 800 feet south of the Main Building, was built in 1923 as the Torrance Elementary School. The architect was E.H. Cline, who also designed the rear addition to the Main Building. Before it opened, Torrance School (the present Torrance High School) accommodated both elementary and high school students. In 1923, with the opening of the new elementary school for kindergarten through sixth grade students, Torrance School was renamed Torrance High School.

In 1963, the Torrance Elementary School building became part of the high school [illegible]. Its two-story design was now considered inappropriate for elementary school use, and the high school needed additional classroom space. The Board of Education built a new elementary school facility nearby, and the old 1923 building was annexed to the high school. It was renamed Torrance High School Annex and became an integral part of the high school campus.

For 40 years this building was in continuous use as an elementary school. Up until the 1950's, it was one of only four elementary schools in the city. Two of the other three were subsequently demolished. The third, similar in style to the Torrance Elementary School, was completed in 1932. Thus, although the Torrance High School Annex is not used as an elementary school at present, it is the oldest remaining elementary school building in the city.

AUDITORIUM (Assembly Hall) (AUD) Architect: Wesley Eager

The old auditorium at Torrance High School was irreparably damaged by an earthquake in 1933. It was demolished, along with the colonnade connecting it to the Main Building.

In the fall of 1938, a new auditorium, designed by Wesley Eager, opened on the campus. The Torrance Herald's special edition, "Torrance on the Air," published September 15, 1938, praised the new building:

> "The outstanding addition to school properties this year will be the new $100,700 high school assembly hall which will seat some 700. This building, now in the final stages of construc-

tion, will probably be ready for use late in October. It will be equipped with the latest apparatus for stage productions and decorated in the modern manner. A sunken garden will connect the assembly hall with the present high school campus."

The newspaper predicted that the new auditorium, described as functional and beautiful, would become "one of the show places of the city."

Until the 1950's, the high school auditorium was the only hall in Torrance with a large enough space and properly equipped to hold concerts and theatrical productions. It had state-of-the-art lighting, sound, and stage equipment. Thus, it was used not only by the high school, but regularly for productions sponsored by community groups in Torrance.

In 1974, when the Main Building was being rehabilitated and restored, a WPA mural painted in the library was in danger of being destroyed. People responsible for maintaining the building noted that it was being damaged by the work in progress. With some difficulty, they mounted the mural on plywood and moved it to the auditorium. An art teacher at the school restored the damaged sections of the mural. It hangs in the auditorium today, bearing the inscription: "A. Katharine Skeele, WPA Federal Art Project #36."

Although less than 50 years of age, the auditorium is an integral part of the Torrance School complex. It is one of only two examples of its type and period in the community. Both the auditorium and the Torrance Post Office (1936) are excellent examples of the PWA Moderne and would appear to be exceptional when viewed in the local architectural context.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES 10

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Coil, Vernon, City Clerk. History of Torrance, Part I. City of Torrance.

Halls, Bob, Los Angeles City School District, Interview, February 1979.

Justice, Mike, "Structural Changes of Torrance High Over the Years", Torrance Historical Society Museum.

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March 21, 1916, P.2, P.7.
December 23, 1917, P.I, p.9
October 22, 1922, P.V, p.13
November 19, 1922, P.IV, p.6
June 28, 1928, P.II, p.21
March 4, 1930, P.II, p.5

Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Rolls and Maps.

Torrance Herald. Torrance on Review, Silver Anniversary Edition. Torrance Herald, 1936.

Torrance Herald. Torrance on the Air. 1938.

Garen, Bernard, Torrance Unified School District, Interview, January 1983.

Buckman, Richard F., Torrance Unified School District, Interview, February 1983.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIONS

Boundaries are lines of convenience which encompass the historic resources and significant associated features.

Main Building (A)

Beginning at the east corner of the Main Building and proceeding northwest 275 feet to the north corner of the Main Building, then turning left and proceeding 25 feet southwest to the colonnade connecting the Main Building to the Home Economics Building, then proceeding 85 feet in a westward curve around the outside of the colonnade to the Home Economics Building, then turning left and proceeding 2 feet to the corner of the Home Economics Building, then turning right and proceeding southwest 100 feet along the side of the Home Economics Building to a point directly opposite the rear end of the Main Building, then turning left and proceeding 325 feet southeast across the landscaped area between the Home Economics Building and the Main Building, across the rear end of the Main Building and the landscaped area directly to the south of it, to a point directly opposite the southeast side of the Main Building, then turning left and proceeding 175 feet northeast across the landscaped area and the southeast side of the building, back to the starting point.

Home Economics Building (B)

Beginning at the east corner of the Home Economics Building and proceeding northwest 62 feet then turning left and proceeding 115 feet southwest along the side of the building, then turning left and proceeding southeast 62 feet across the rear of the building, then turning left and proceeding northeast 115 feet along the side of the building to the starting point.

Auditorium/Assembly Hall (AUD)

Starting at the east corner of the building and proceeding northwest 175 feet to the north corner of the building, turning left and proceeding southwest 90 feet across the front of the building, to the west corner of the building, turning left and proceeding 165 feet southeast to the south corner, then turning left and proceeding northeast 90 feet across the back of the building, thus returning to the starting point.

Torrance High School Annex (K)

Beginning at the southwest corner of the building and proceeding 90 feet east, then turning left and proceeding north 365 feet across the front of the building, then turning left and proceeding 175 feet west, then turning left again and proceeding 50 feet south across the end of this wing of the building, then turning left and proceeding 75 feet east, then turning right and proceeding 315 feet across the rear of the building back to the starting point.

FORM PREPARED BY: February 12, 1983

Don Fulton
Torrance High School Alumni Association
P. O. Box 527
Torrance, California 90508

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☐ BASIC PLANS (2A) ☐ FINAL PLANS (3A)

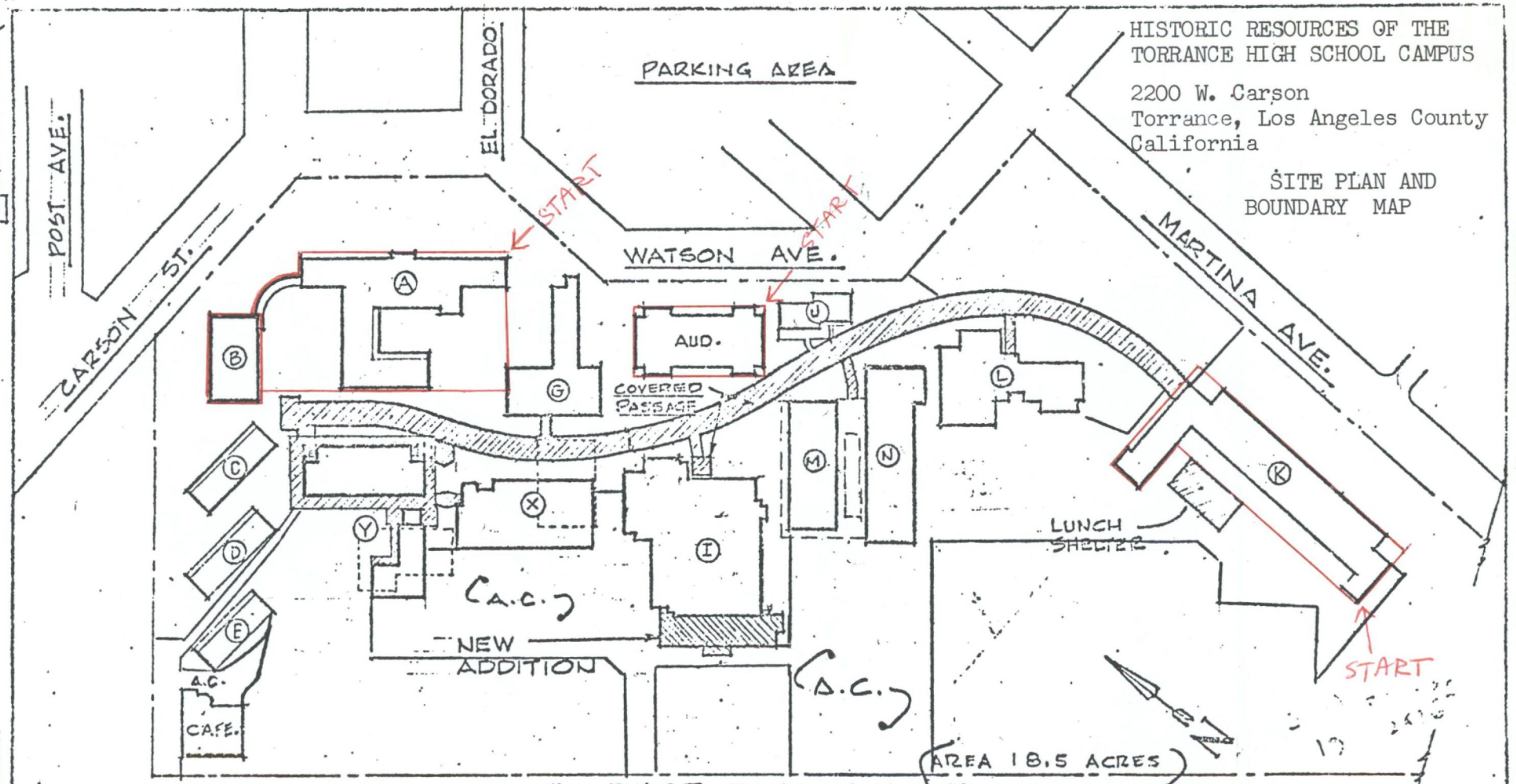
TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL — TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

ADDRESS: TORRANCE, CALIF.

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS

2200 W. Carson
Torrance, Los Angeles County
California

SITE PLAN AND BOUNDARY MAP



PLOT PLAN SC. 1" = 200'-0"

	UNIT	CL. RM.	LAB.	AREA
1	UNIT "A" - 1ST FLOOR	9		18,519
2	" " 2ND "	11		16,174
3	" "B" 1ST & 2ND FLOOR	1	6	13,230
4	" "C"	4		3,628
5	" "D"	3		3,628
6	" "E"	3		3,343
7	" "F" DEMOLISHED			—
8	" "G" 1ST & 2ND FLOOR			11,271
9	" "H" DEMOLISHED			—
10	" "M" & "N" 1ST. FLOOR			23,708
11	" " 2ND " & ROOF			23,408

	UNITS	CL. RM.	LAB	AREA
12	UNIT "J"	2		39,076
13	" "U"	2		4,562
14	" "K" 1ST & 2ND FLOOR	24	1	39,654
15	" L			16,220
16	AUDITORIUM			15,093
17	CAFETERIA			6,687
18	TOILET BLDGS A & B & TICKET BOOTH			2,476
A	LIBRARY BLDG. 'X'			38,326
20	CLASSROOM BLDG 'Y'			24,145
21	COVERED PASSAGE @ 1/2			51,024

ABOVE IS MEASURED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ART. 2020 SUBCHAPTER 8, TITLE 5, CALIF. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

TOTAL SQ. FOOT AREA = 354,172

DATE: 8-2-63 SHEET 1 OF 22 SHEETS
REVISED DATE 3-18-68 ; 6/1/71 Resp

ROY DONLEY & ASSOCIATES A.I.A. Roy Donley

OFFICE OF SCHOOL PLANNING
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 5/31/83
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 1 of 1

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Torrance High School Campus Thematic Resources
State California LA County

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
1. Home Economics Building	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 10.13.83
		Attest	
2. Auditorium	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 10.13.83
		Attest	
3. Torrance School	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 10.13.83
		Attest	
4. Main Building	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 10.13.83
		Attest	
5.		Keeper	
		Attest	
6.		Keeper	
		Attest	
7.		Keeper	
		Attest	
8.		Keeper	
		Attest	
9.		Keeper	
		Attest	
10.		Keeper	
		Attest	

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Torrance High School Campus Thematic Resources
Los Angeles County
CALIFORNIA

Substantive Review

Working No. 8/31/83
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85
Date Due: 10/5/83
Action: ✓ ACCEPT 10/13/83
___ RETURN
___ REJECT
Federal Agency:

☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments: 4 historic buildings on campus of Torrance H.S. are being nominated separately because larger area has too many more recent buildings to be a district. Buildings are significant in architecture and/or education. This school campus buildings reflect how the broader "City Beautiful" plan for the city was applied to the educational institutions for the city in concept and high-style design.

Recom./Criteria Accept
Reviewer L McClelland
Discipline A. Hist
Date 10/13/83
___ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date ___
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

Methodology is clear without being especially discussed.

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

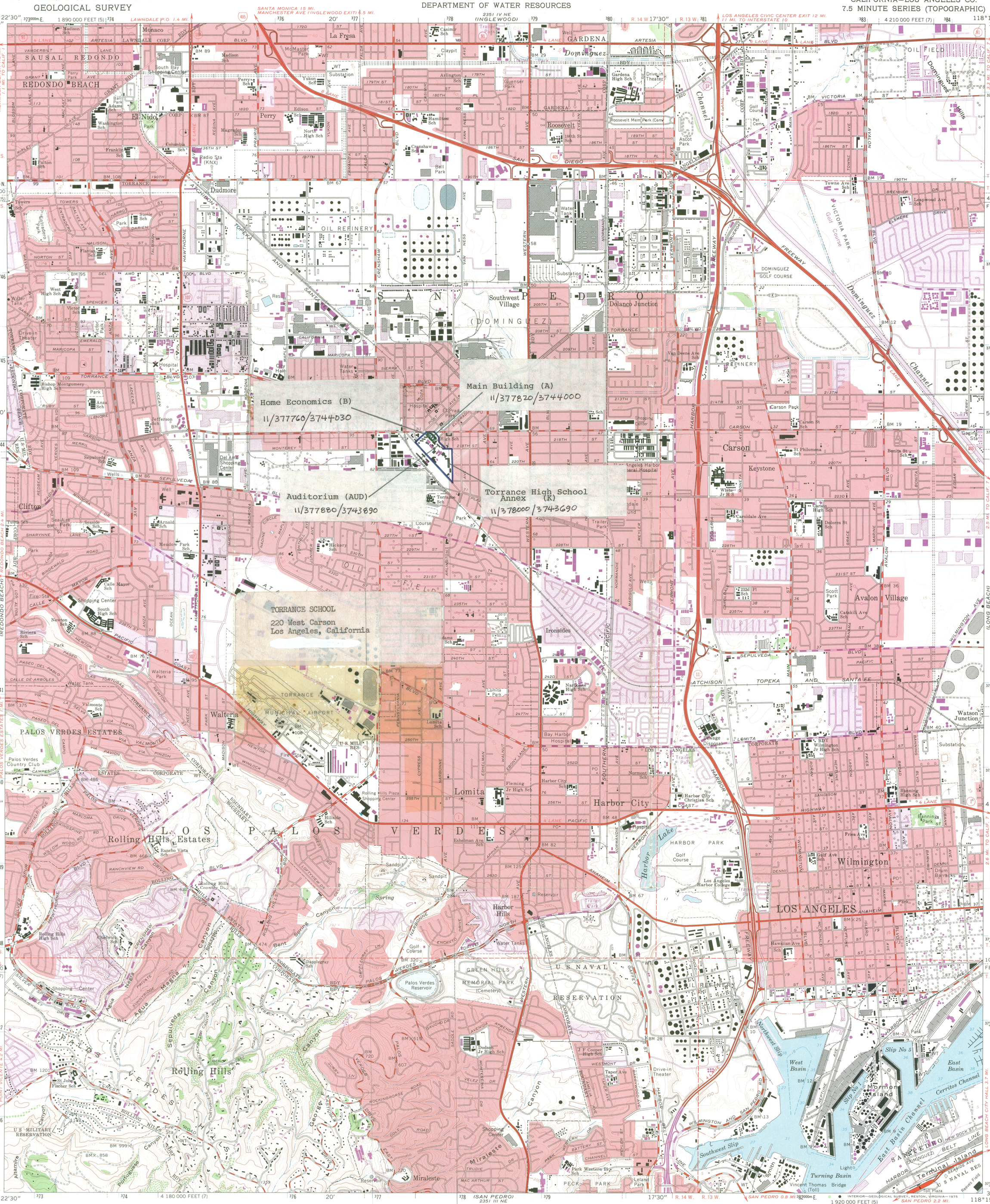
Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

TORRANCE QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA—LOS ANGELES CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)


Home Economics (B)
11/377760/3744030
Main Building (A)
11/377820/3744000
Auditorium (AUD)
11/377880/3743890
Torrance High School
Annex (K)
11/378000/3743690
TORRANCE SCHOOL
220 West Carson
Los Angeles, California
SAUSAL REDONDO
REDONDO BEACH
El Nido
Monaco
La Fresa
GARDENA
Dominguez
OIL FIELD
Dudmore
OIL REFINERY
Southwest Village
Dolanco Junction
(DOMINGUEZ)
DOMINGUEZ GOLF COURSE
VICTORIA PARK Golf Course
Carson
Keystone
Clifton
Avalon Village
Ironsides
Watson Junction
Walteria
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
TORRANCE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
U S MIL RES
Lomita
Harbor City
Harbor Lake
HARBOR PARK
Wilmington
LOS PALOS VERDES
Rolling Hills Estates
Harbor Hills
LOS ANGELES
U S NAVAL RESERVATION
GREEN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK (Cemetery)
Palos Verdes Reservoir
Rolling Hills
U S MILITARY RESERVATION
Miraleste
Mormon Island
Slip No 5
Slip No 1
West Basin
East Basin
Cerritos Channel
East Basin Channel
Southwest Slip
Turning Basin
Vincent Thomas Bridge (Toll)
Terminal Island
U S NAVAL RES
Reeves Field
SAN PEDRO
Northwest Slip
Dominguez Channel
Dominguez Hills
Harbor Lake
Golf Course
Los Angeles Harbor College
Drive-in Theater
Carson Park
Scott Park
Catskill Ave Sch
Banning Park
Banning High Sch
Drum Barracks
Gaging Sta
Watson Junction
Substation
Sewage Disposal
Harbor City Sch
Fleming Jr High Sch
Harbor City Christian Sch
Normont Sch
Bay Harbor Hospital
Lomita Park
Lomita Sch
Narbonne High Sch
Trailer Park
Leland Park
Park Western Pla Sch
Shopping Center
Water Tanks
Reservoir
Sandpit
Golf Course
Rolling Hills Country Dn
Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center
Hillside Sch
Eshelman Ave Sch
Rancho Vista Sch
Rolling Hills High Sch
Chadwick Sch
Dapplegray Sch
Dodson Jr High Sch
J F Cooper High Sch
Taper Ave Sch
Miraleste
Reservoir
Fire Sta
Hospital
Bishop Montgomery High Sch
Anza Sch
Jefferson Sch
Del Amo Shopping Center
Sepulveda Sch
Wells
Well
Torrance Sch
Tulita Sch
Sea Aire Park
Seaside Sch
Arnold Sch
Meadow Park Sch
Hickory Sch
Calle Mayor Sch
Shopping Center
South High Sch
Newton Sch
Riviera Sch
Walteria Park
Valmonte Sch
Palos Verdes Country Club
Hawaiian Ave Sch
Gulf Ave Sch
Fries Ave Sch
Banning High Sch
BDY Wilmington Jr High Sch
Carson Pack
Carson St Sch
St Philomena Sch
Bonita St Sch
Carson High Sch
Dolores St Sch
Caroldale Ave Sch
Catskill Ave Sch
Towne Ave Sch
Leapwood Ave Sch
Stevenson Sch
Saldado Park
Flavian Sch
Victor Sch
Victor Park
Drivein Theater
Water Tank
West High Sch
Bishop Montgomery High Sch
Jefferson Sch
Sepulveda Sch
Arnold Sch
Meadow Park Sch
Hickory Sch
Calle Mayor Sch
Newton Sch
Riviera Sch
Walteria Park
Valmonte Sch
Palos Verdes Country Club
Rancho Vista Sch
Rolling Hills High Sch
Chadwick Sch
Dapplegray Sch
St John Fischer Sch
Dodson Jr High Sch
J F Cooper High Sch
Taper Ave Sch
Miraleste
Reservoir
Fire Sta
Hospital
Bay Harbor Hospital
Harbor City Sch
Fleming Jr High Sch
Harbor City Christian Sch
Normont Sch
Lomita Park
Lomita Sch
Narbonne High Sch
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Rolling Hills Plaza Shopping Center
Hillside Sch
Eshelman Ave Sch
Rancho Vista Sch
Rolling Hills High Sch
Chadwick Sch
Dapplegray

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
POST OFFICE BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811
(916) 445-8006

May 5, 1980

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1980
NATIONAL REGISTER

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
440 "G" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

We submit the Torrance School for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is located in Los Angeles County in the 32nd California Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Knox Mellon

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure

sep

Aaron

EDWARD J. FERRARO
CITY MANAGER

HEADQUARTERS CITY · INDUSTRY · FINANCE · BUSINESS · TORRANCE

CITY OF TORRANCE

3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD, TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA
TELEPHONE (213) 328-5310 90503

April 12, 1983

RECEIVED
APR 15 1983
OHP

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Dr. Mellon:

Thank you for your recent letter notifying us that the State Historical Resources Commission is considering the nomination of Torrance High School to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Torrance City Council formally approved this nomination on March 27, 1979, when the High School was first nominated to the National Register.

The City Manager's Office wholeheartedly supports this nomination and looks forward to inclusion of this local landmark in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

LJJ:jw

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, *Governor*

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
POST OFFICE BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811

916-445-8006

RECEIVED
AUG 31 1983

August 10, 1983

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We submitted the historic resource of the Torrance High School Campus for nomination to the National Register. This property was originally nominated as the Torrance School but was returned to this office for questions regarding integrity of the complex. Based upon the advice of your staff, we are re-submitting the nomination in a thematic format identifying the four buildings on the campus which we believe to be individually eligible for National Register listing.

Because of the substantial change in the application, it has been reviewed again by our state review board and has been processed in accordance with all current nomination and notification procedures. We hope this will allow you to complete your review of this pending nomination.

Sincerely,

Knox Mellon

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer

KM;jc
Enclosures