

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND
QUASI-PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9760
CULVER BLVD.

DATE:

1927

STYLE:

SPANISH ECLECTIC

SOURCE: RATING:

P B

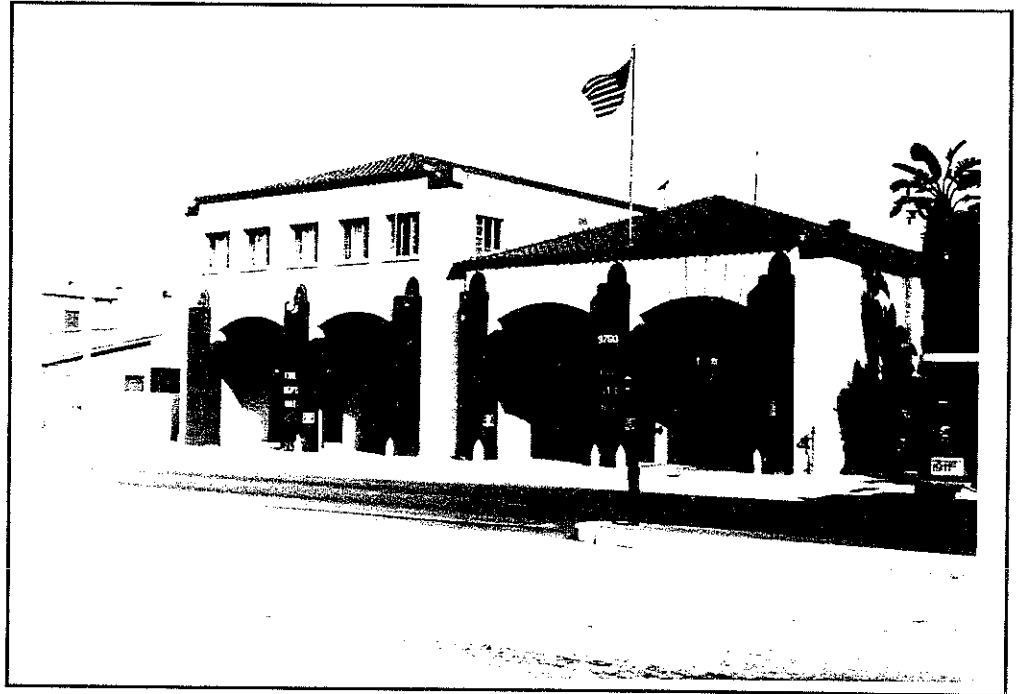
ALTERATIONS:

M.44,'49

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

FIRE STATION



DESCRIPTION:

The east half of the Culver City Fire Station was built in 1927 in the Spanish Eclectic style. Cast concrete is used to create a stone-like appearance. The west side is a later addition, but matches the roof style and the front facade of the original building. The easternmost portion of the building is two stories in height and topped with a red tile-clad hipped roof, with no eaves. A row of recessed multi-paned casement windows across the front and on the sides. Square pilasters, topped with scrolls, mark the front corners of the building. The first floor is divided into two identical recessed entry spaces. Square pilasters, capped with bullet-shaped capitals, flank the two entries. A row of cast false stones forms an arch at the top of each entry. Two walk-in doors are located on the east side, while the west side has a large beautifully-paneled door for the fire engines. Heavy hand-crafted hinges accent the doors. The westernmost half of the building is single-storied and is also topped with a red-tile-clad hipped roof. The pilasters, arches, and doors match those on the original building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Fire Station is a significant official building in Culver City. It complements the design of the adjacent City Hall, and creates an important streetscape representing officialdom in Culver City. Its size, shape, coloring, and design are compatible with the City Hall Building. The building permit was taken out in November of 1927. The local fire system always has been and is still very important to local residents of the city.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9770
CULVER BLVD.

DATE:

1928

STYLE:

BUEAX ARTS NEO-CLASSICAL

SOURCE: RATING:

P A

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CITY HALL

**DESCRIPTION:**

Culver City's impressive Beaux Arts City Hall is a fine example of that particular style of architecture. Two stories high, with a prominent front-facing gable, the building is topped with a low-pitched hipped roof, with almost no eaves. An elaborate frieze, featuring rectangular cast concrete emblems, runs around the building. A beltcourse divides the frieze from the second story. A large cast cartouche decorates the center of the front-facing gable. The vertical pilasters of the front are scored with rows of horizontal lines. Quoins decorate the main corners of the building. A one and one-half story arched window, framed in several rows of heavy cast molding, is the centerpiece of the front facade, and is framed along the bottom with a delicate balustrade of cast balusters. Round concrete balls top the square posts of the balustrade. The main entrance to the building is centered below the balcony. The open entry is flanked by two pairs of square, scored pilasters, topped with cast concrete capitals. Narrow casement windows are used throughout the rest of the building. A side entrance is located in the west facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Culver City City Hall appears eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its fine Beaux Arts architecture and the significant role it has played in the history of Culver City. This is the location where most of the important decisions concerning zoning, planning, development, the movie studios, etc. have been made for almost sixty years. It has appeared in several movies, including one by Laurel and Hardy in which it is labeled "County Hospital." The City Hall had its official dedication ceremonies on Saturday, March 30, 1929. Reve Houck was the Mayor. Cecil B. De Mille sent a telegram to Mayor Houck which stated: "Congratulations to the officers and the citizens of Culver City on their progress in erecting a beautiful new building which will be a cornerstone in the growth of the community R. P. Davidson is listed as the contractor for the City Hall. He arrived in Culver City in 1916, with \$400.00 in his pocket. Harry Culver convinced him to open a hardware store, even though there were no other business buildings in sight. Shortly thereafter, Davidson decided to build a home and Harry Culver financed both land and house. Before the house was finished he sold it for a profit of \$700.00. which launched him into the building business.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9942
CULVER BLVD.

DATE:
1940

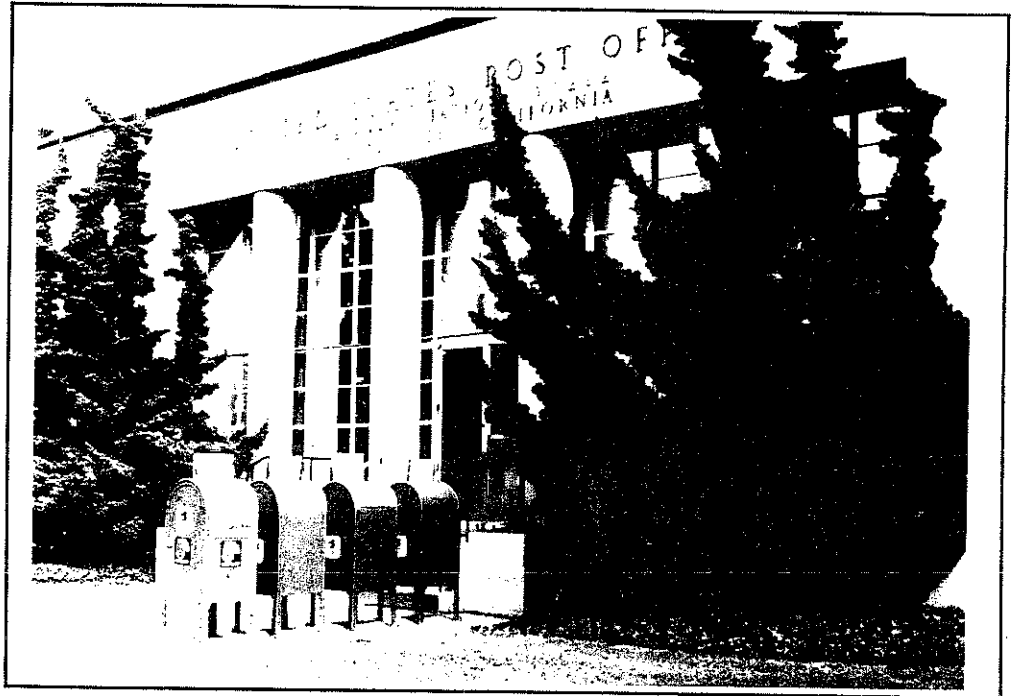
STYLE:
MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:
P B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
POST OFFICE



DESCRIPTION:

The Culver City Post Office built in the Moderne style, is 1 1/2 stories high, with a symmetrical facade and a flat roof, bordered with a rounded ledge. The center of interest is the wide, recessed, entry porch on the north side. Four round columns, with banded caps, support the ceiling. Metal-framed, multi-paned glass panels, which run from floor to ceiling, cover the entire surface of the back wall of the porch. A pair of metal-framed doors in the center lead to the lobby. A pair of very large and unusual metal and opaque glass lanterns are placed on the concrete piers on each side of the steps. Matching round columns, in recessed sections, add interest to both the east and west sides of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Designed in a late Moderne style, the U. S. Post Office is a good example of that style of architecture. It is simple, yet graceful, in design, and retains most of its architectural integrity. It gains its significance for its architecture and its use by all Culver City residents. Louis Simon is listed as the supervising architect, Neal Melick as the supervising engineer, James Farley as Postmaster General, and John Carmody, as head of the Federal Works Administration.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
10858
CULVER BLVD.

DATE:
1928

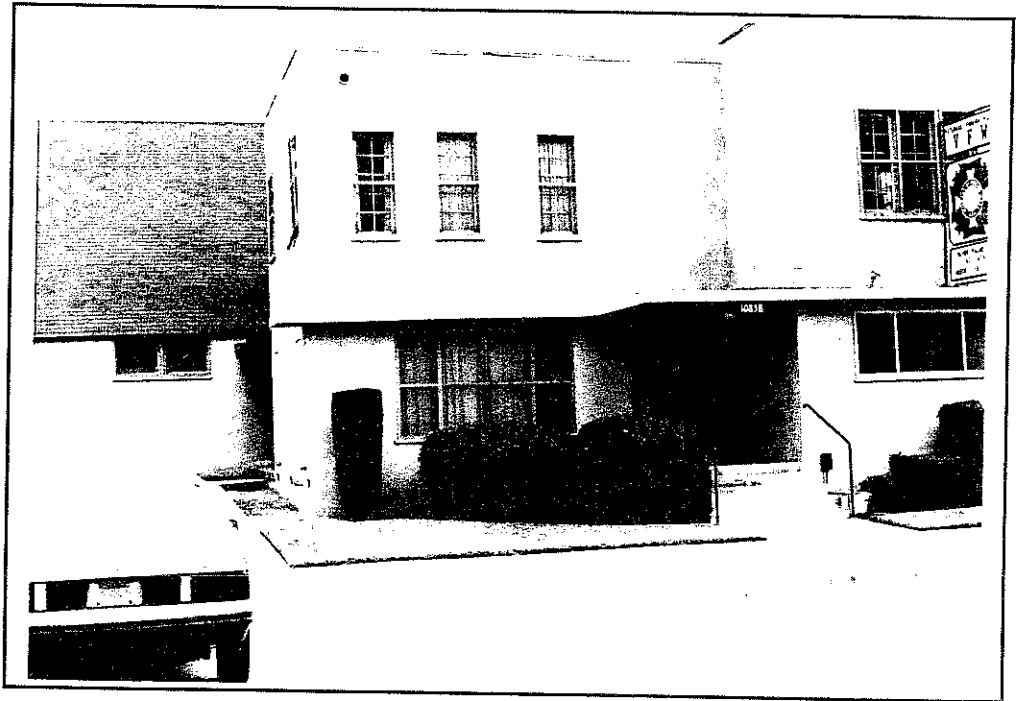
STYLE:
MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:
E B-

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
VFW



DESCRIPTION:

The V.F.W. building consists of an ell-shaped stucco clad two story building with a large gable roofed addition attached to the rear. The flat roof features an unbroken parapet edged with a metal band. ten-light casement windows used singly and in threes are featured in the second story. A flat ell-shaped stucco clad canopy shelters the first floor front facade and forms a porch in the corner of the ell. Jalousied windows replace the original triple windows to the east of the front door and those in the front facade of the wing on the west side. The two-story gable roofed addition in the rear was added in the 1940's.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The V.F.W. Hall is a gathering place for those in the community who have served their country in a branch of the armed forces, on foreign soil. It has been an important social/philanthropic organization since W.W.I. Many volunteer hours have been spent helping ex-solders both financially and spiritually. The building is also used for other community functions.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

3832
JASMINE AVENUE

DATE:

1948

STYLE:

SPANISH COLONIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E A

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:****DESCRIPTION:**

Ell-shaped, with a red clay tile roof, the building shown above is the convent for St. Augustine's Catholic Church and school. It is elegant and spare in its use of ornamentation. The exterior is clad in stucco. The front wing extends forward on the north end, and is flanked by an open porch with a curved and cantilevered second floor section. Large square stucco-clad posts support the recessed porch roof. A plain metal railing edges the porch and concrete stairs. A round opening, decorated with a metal grill, is placed between the street and the porch. The front door is richly paneled and topped with a segmental arched parapet. Rows of recessed, metal-framed, multi-paned windows are used on both floors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Although this building was not constructed until 1948, it is included here because it is compatible with and an important part of the St. Augustine Church grounds. It is similar to the rectory next door in massing and materials, and joined to it by a walled garden. It retains most of its original integrity and is a very good example of 1940's Spanish Colonial architecture. Ben Tanner and Son were the contractors.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

3850

JASMINE AVENUE

DATE:

1935

STYLE:

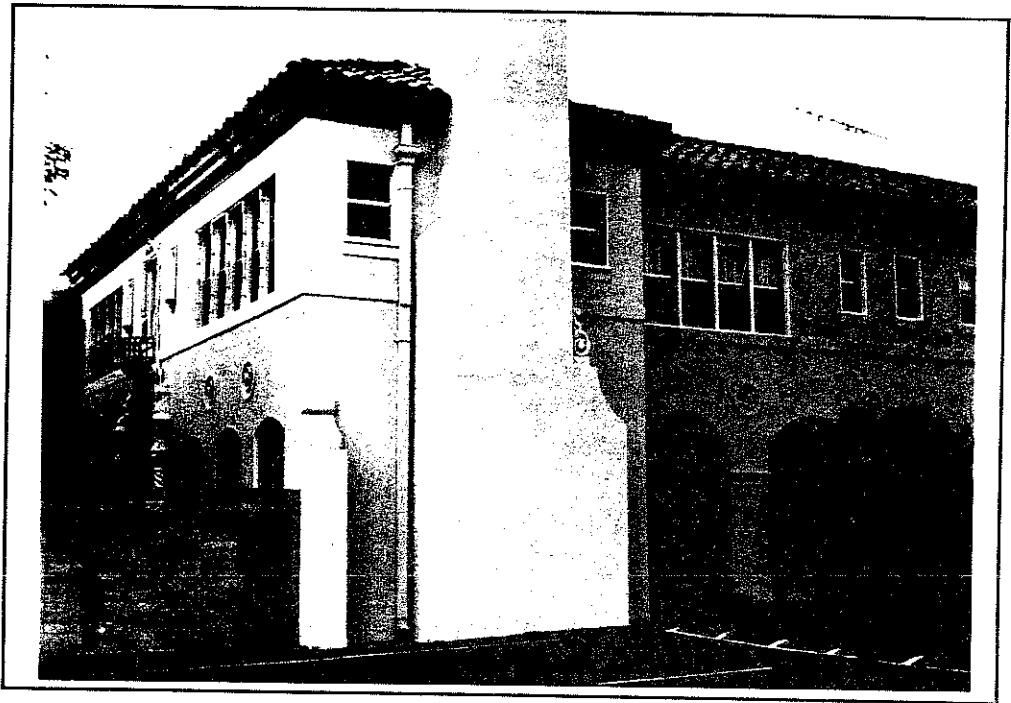
SPANISH CHURIQUERESQUE

SOURCE: RATING:

E A

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:****DESCRIPTION:**

A red-tile-clad hipped roof crowns the two-story, stucco-clad Rectory shown above. A wide cornice runs around the perimeter of the roof line. Rows of recessed double-hung windows, separated with carved spindles, occupy the second story. A stucco belt course forms a horizontal line below the windows. The main entrance is embellished with cast concrete trim in a style called Churiquesque. A row of egg-and-dart molding outlines the deeply-set arched entry way. Above is a small semi-circular balcony with a delicate metal railing. A recessed double-hung window, capped with an ornamented hood, looks out onto the balcony. Recessed niches are placed on each side of the window. A row of arched french windows are located along the ground floor. Medallions decorate the spaces between the windows. A large stucco-clad chimney graces the south side of the front section. An arched recessed entry is located on the south side of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Part of the St. Augustine Church complex, this rectory has many fine architectural elements. The Churiquesque detailing is rare and a good example of this type of decorative work. The window sequences and detailing, medallions, niches, balcony, and cornice all add character to this building. It also gains significance as part of the Catholic Church which has served Culver City so well since 1887.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

3430
MCMANUS AVENUE

DATE:

1935

STYLE:

MODERNE SCHOOL

SOURCE: RATING:

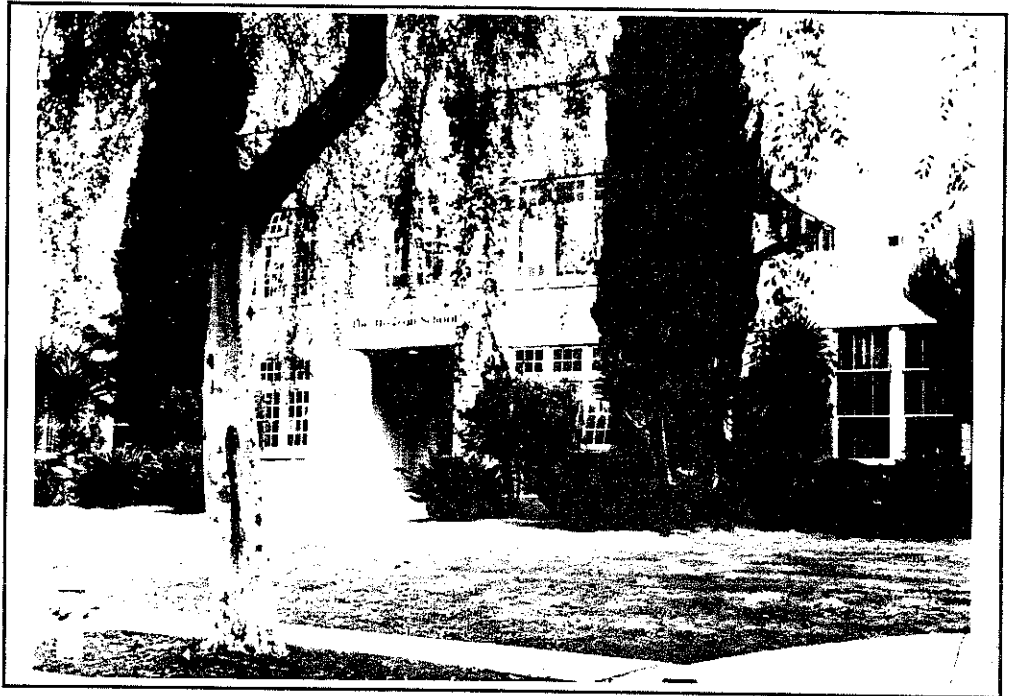
E B

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

HORIZON SCH.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Moderne in style, the stucco-clad Horizon School has a rectangular two-story center section with matching single-story wings extending both north and south. Secondary wings extend forward a few feet from the end of each wing. The flat roof features an unbroken parapet with a row of rounded Moderne trim along the top. Large recessed multi-paned windows, with matching transoms, lets much light into the second floor rooms. The centered entrance is deeply recessed and reached by wide rounded concrete steps. A rounded window accents the area above the multi-paned wood-framed double entrance doors. Banks of five large multi-paned windows are used along the first floor.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Originally called Washington School, this Moderne building is the only school older than 50 years old in Culver City. It is significant as a good example of 1930's school architecture and for the role it has played in the lives of the children of Culver City. Most of the Moderne schools in Southern California have been demolished or made into storage or administration buildings. This one still serves as Horizon School.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

10153
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1955

STYLE:

GOthic

SOURCE: RATING:

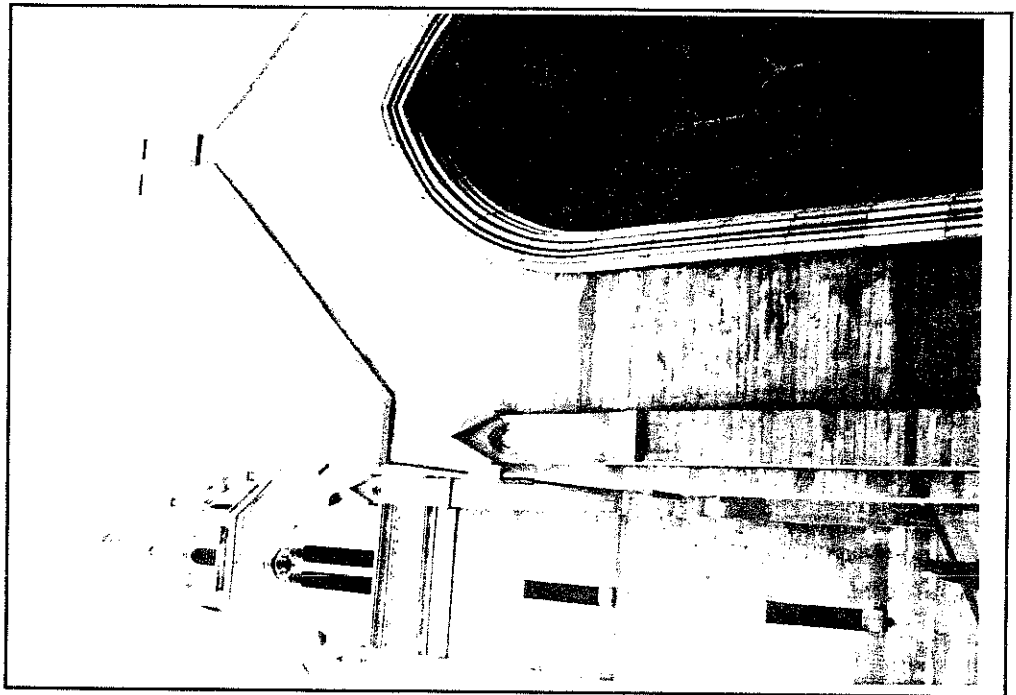
E B

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

SITE 1883

**DESCRIPTION:**

Constructed in 1955 of poured-place concrete, St. Augustine's Church is a landmark in Culver City. The front facing gabled wing is centered with a three story high rose window trimmed in seven rows of molding. Pilasters capped with pointed and paneled caps accent the corners of the front facade and are repeated throughout the building. An ornate octagonal tower extends from the top of the three-storied square tower on the southwest corner. Tall narrow windows are featured in the tower and a row of cast concrete Gothic arches trim the top of the parapet. The octagonal tower and the one above it feature arched windows with cast concrete trefoils. The conical tower roof is capped with a cross. Stained glass windows run along both sides of the building.

Stucco covers the exterior of the 2-1/2 story high Gothic style Parish Hall located to the east of the Cathedral across a court yard. A front facing gabled roof clad in tile and having no eaves caps the building. A multi-paned round window inset in rows of molding is centered in the gable face. A pair of matching Gothic arches with blank faces, dominate the facade. Pairs of wood doors occupy the spaces at the bottom. Crown-shaped lanterns and small windows flank the doors. Arched Gothic windows are used on the sides.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Although this building does not meet the age criteria for historical significance, the quality of its design indicates that it is likely to be a significant building by 2005 when it reaches 50 years of age. This building is an unusually fine example of Gothic architecture. Most of the churches which have served Culver City in the early days were located out of the city, north of Venice Blvd. The property on which this church is located was donated by Senor J. Francisco Figueroa in 1883 for use as a Catholic Church. He wanted a mission church established to serve the people of La Ballona Valley. In 1887 a small wooden chapel was built on the site. Priests from St. Monica's Church in Santa Monica regularly said mass here. The Church is named after St. Monica's son, St. Augustine. It was the first church in what was to become Culver City. In 1955 the prominent Gothic-style Cathedral was built. It is significant for its architecture and its part in the broad patterns of Culver City's history.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

second page of photos

10153

WASHINGTON BLVD.

Parish Hall, located to
east of Church.

