

## THE CULVER STUDIOS

The Culver Studios helped to identify the City as a center for the movie industry. Its impact has been economic and social. The wide variety of owners this studio has witnessed is indicative of the changing nature of the industry and reflects many of the great names in movie and television production (Cecil B. de Mille, Desilu, RKO and others). Additionally, this studio has architectural significance with its distinctive architectural theme which is carefully elaborated in its "Mt. Vernon" (1920's Colonial Revival) styled administration building and is carried throughout many of the major buildings on the lot.

### The Culver Studios

Recognize site and the following buildings:

- (1) Landmark: 9336 Washington Boulevard, Mansion Building and Ince appendage;
- (2) Significant Buildings: "S", "T", "U", "V" (four bungalows).

ADDRESS:  
9336 #C  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1918-19

STYLE:  
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL  
HPAC RANKING  
LANDMARK



COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO

#### DESCRIPTION:

An outstanding example of 1920's architecture, this large office building is the centerpiece of the Culver City Studios, and was the first building on the lot. The main section is two-stories-high, with a side-facing gabled roof. Single-storied wings extend from each end and extend forward, to form ells. The formal landscaped yard is quite large and features a circular drive and a wide brick walk leading to the brick steps in the center. Wide shiplap siding covers the exterior, and wide boards trim the corners. The side-facing gabled roof is centered with a large pedimented front-facing gable and topped by four narrow gabled dormers. The dormers extend forward, almost the roof edge, and are joined by a Chippendale-style balustrade. A multi-paned round window, with a keystone on each side, is centered in the gable, and the eaves of both the roof and dormers are enclosed. Eight two-story-high round pillars, accented with Doric capitals, support the recessed porch roof. The porch floor is made of red brick and has no balustrade. The 13-course Colonial-style front facade features 12 sets of 6-over-6 double-hung windows, flanked with green shutters. The centered front door is topped with a Palladian window and segmented cornice, supported by a pair of Doric columns. Red brick chimneys extend from the roof at each end of the main gabled section. The wings on each side are different in design. The wing on the west end is topped with a side-facing gabled roof with gabled dormers which match the center section of the building. A large front-facing gabled wing extends forward. Enclosed eaves, with returns, and a Palladian-style vent accent the facade of the wing. Rows of identical 6-over-6 windows are flanked with green shutters. Red brick wainscoting adds visual weight to the bottom third of the wing. A Palladian window accents the 6-over-6 window on the bay at the corner of the ell. The east wing has a flat roof, bordered by a Chippendale-style wooden balustrade. Urns top each corner post. The fence across the front features red brick piers with criss-cross latticework panels in the center. White wrought iron gates lead to the walk in the center and the driveway on each end. The rear of the building features a single-story porch which runs its length. Several small porch landings, with wooden stairs and rails, lead to the rooms inside. This portion of the building once housed the artist section of the studio.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

This building has served as the main administration building since the studio was built in 1918-19. World-famous directors and producers once worked here. Through the years such giants of the movie industry as Thomas Ince, Cecil B. DeMille, and David Selznick had their offices here. In later years Desilu Productions, a pioneering television company owned by Desi Arnaz and Lucille Ball, had its headquarters in the building. It is fondly known on the lot as the "mansion", and was modeled after Mt. Vernon. It would appear to be eligible for the National Register on its own, as well as part of a historic district.

**ADDRESS:**

9336

WASHINGTON BLVD.

**DATE:**

1927

**STYLE:**

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

HPAC RANKING:

LANDMARK

**COMMENT:**

DEMILLE THEATRE



**DESCRIPTION:**

The entrance to the Cecil B. DeMille Theatre, built by the famous producer in 1927, faces onto a brick courtyard on the east side of the administration building. Five square wooden posts, with chamfered edges and trimmed at the top with molding, support the full porch. A pair of paneled wooden doors lead to the small lobby. Round classical pilasters, supporting a segmented portico, flank the single wood paneled door to the theatre. A swagged Palladian window tops the door. Classical pilasters and ceiling molding trim the interior of the theatre, which is topped by an arched ceiling. The facade which faces the street matches the other Colonial Revival buildings across the front of the lot, and has 6-over-6 windows and red brick wainscoting.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Cecil B. DeMille built this theatre in 1927, and it was dedicated to him in a ceremony on July 27, 1984. It is used to show daily rushes and for special screenings.

ADDRESS:  
9336 #D (N)  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1936

STYLE:  
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

HPAC RANKING:  
LANDMARK

COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO



DESCRIPTION:

Two large single-storied multi-paned curved bay windows, accented along the bottom with vertical siding, accent the Colonial Revival-style wing on the northeast corner. Lapped siding, trimmed with wide corner boards, cover the exterior. The two-story section on the south is topped with a side-facing gabled roof, while the northern section features a a gabled roof running at right angles to the taller structure. A large red brick chimney runs up the north side. 6-over-6 double-hung windows are used throughout the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

ADDRESS:  
9336 #D (S)  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1924

STYLE:  
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

HPAC RANKING:  
LANDMARK

COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO



DESCRIPTION:

Horizontal lapped siding covers the exterior of the two-story Colonial Revival building to the east of the mansion. Rows of 6-over-6 double-hung windows are used singly and in pairs on both the first and second floors. The low-pitched gabled roof runs from the north to south. A pedimented gabled portico, supported by round Doric columns, shelters the paneled front door. The porch and stairs are of red brick. A plain railing borders the porch. Multi-paned sidelights flank the front door. The building is connected on both ends to other buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE:

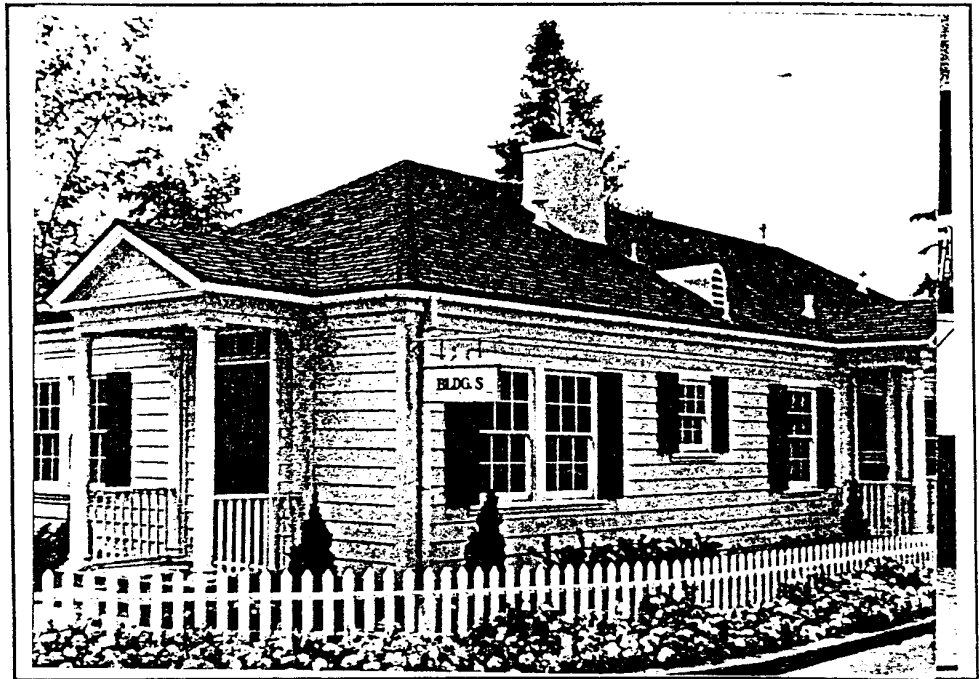
ADDRESS:  
9336 #S  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1935

STYLE:  
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

HPAC RANKING  
SIGNIFICANT

COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO



**DESCRIPTION:**

Following the Colonial Revival theme set by most of the buildings on this studio lot, Building S has wide lapped siding, 6-over-6 double-hung windows and shutters. The hipped roof is centered with pedimented front-facing gabled porticos on both the north and east sides. The porticos are supported by round Doric columns and bordered with plain balustrades. The wood-paneled doors are topped with three-paneled transoms. A small yard and white picket fence surrounds the bungalow.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

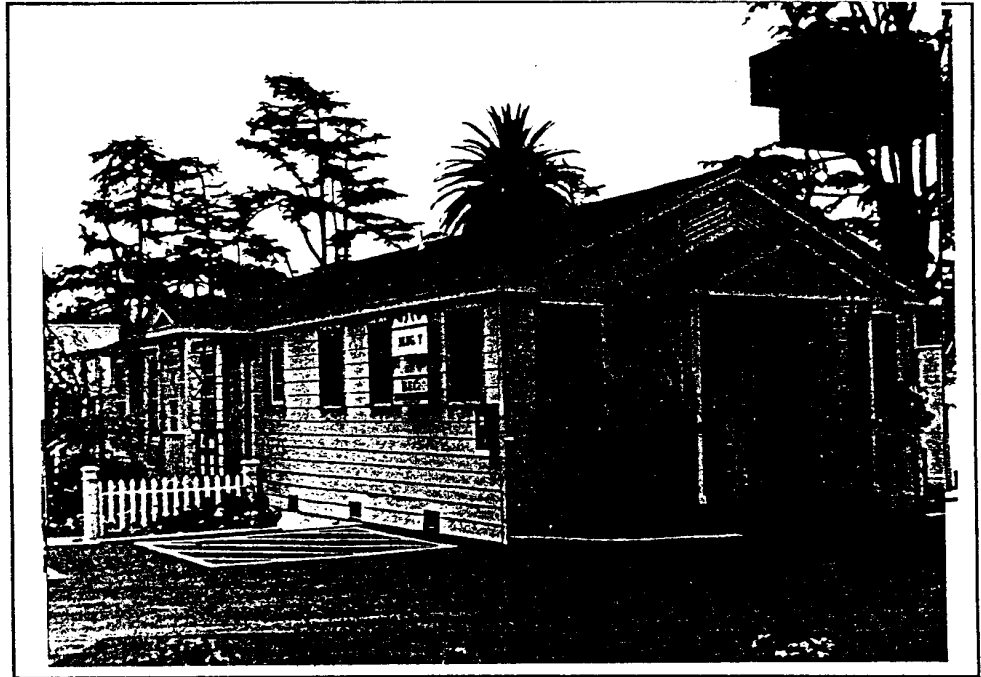
This double bungalow was built in the mid-1930's for use by major stars during the filming of movies such as "Gone With the Wind." It is now occupied by Blake Edwards Productions, an internationally known film production firm.

ADDRESS:  
9336 #T  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1938

STYLE:  
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

HPAC RANKING  
SIGNIFICANT



COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

A slight variation of the Colonial Revival theme is seen in the bungalow called Building T. Like Building S, it was constructed several years after the administration building. Wide lapped board, trimmed with corner boards, covers the exterior. The side-facing gabled roof features enclosed eaves and returns. Small pedimented, gabled porticos extend from the east and south sides. Square posts support the porticos and trellises accent the spaces on the sides of the porch. A pair of matching doors is centered in the north end, while a single wood-paneled door is located under the portico on the east side. Small 9-light windows, with plain trim are used on all sides. A small yard surrounds the bungalow.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

This building containing four dressing rooms was used by many actors until it was converted to office space. There is an unsubstantiated oral tradition that it may have been built for, and/or used by Olivia De Havilland. The bungalow retains almost all of its original architectural integrity.

ADDRESS:  
9336 #U  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1924

STYLE:  
STREAMLINE MODERNE

HPAC RANKING  
SIGNIFICANT

COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO



DESCRIPTION:

A flat roof, with unbroken parapet, caps the single story stucco-clad Moderne building called Building U. Small double-hung windows, edged with narrow molding and installed flush with the exterior, are used on all facades. A plain door, sheltered by a horizontal Moderne-style flat canopy, is centered in the front facade. The canopy is supported by pipes leading from the outside corners of the canopy to the face of the building. A wooden water heater addition on the front is an obvious alteration. Rows of double-hung windows are used on all facades.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building was built as the gym/steam room for the Gloria Swanson Building, according to Studio sources. There is an unsubstantiated oral tradition that it was used by Orson Wells as an office, although Studio officials believe this unlikely.



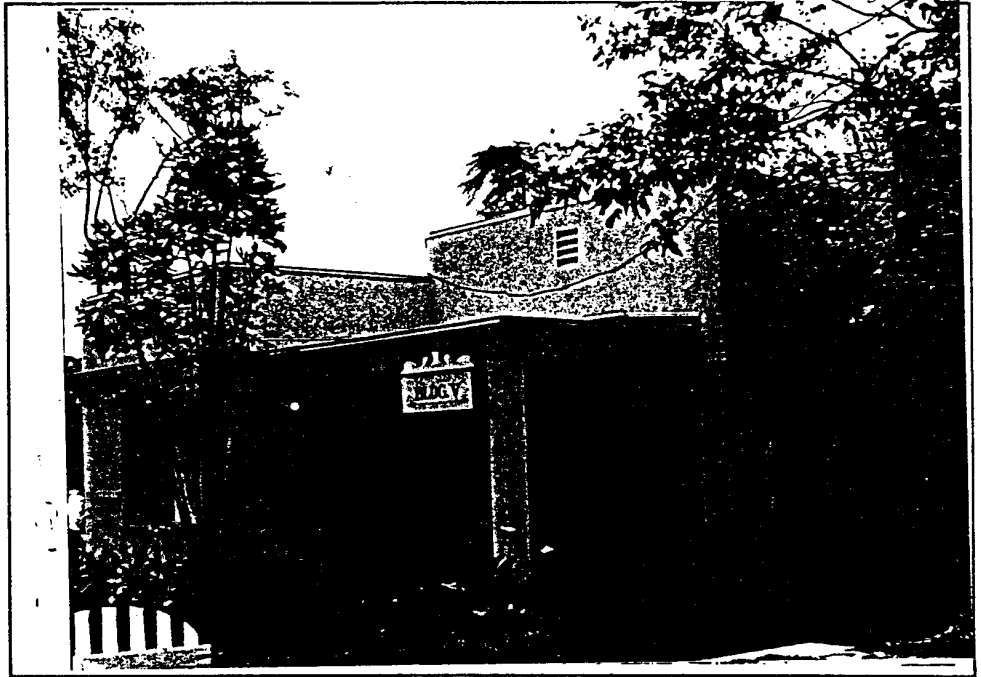
ADDRESS:  
9336 #V  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1924

STYLE:  
PRAIRIE SCHOOL

HPAC RANKING  
SIGNIFICANT

COMMENT:  
CULVER STUDIO



**DESCRIPTION:**

A narrow border edges the top of the unbroken parapet of this stucco-clad building. The front is single-story, but there is a flat-roof second-story room at the back. A flat-roofed porch, supported by square wooden posts, occupies the southeast corner. Double-hung windows are used throughout the building. Those on the bay on the southside have Oriental-style muntins. Narrow horizontal banding accents the face above the windows and at wainscot height. A small yard and picket fence surround the building.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

This building was built for Gloria Swanson. It is now occupied by Blake Edwards Productions.