METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER STUDIOS
(Now Lorimar Studios) 10202 Washington Blvd.

The Metro-Golden-Mayer (MGM) Studio is probably the premier significant group of buildings in Culver City. The studio buildings appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on the basis of their architecture, the association of the studio with famous persons, and place in the broad patterns of national and international history. Its significance to Culver City lies in the economic and social impact it has made on that City. During the 1920's, 30's and 40's, the studio was one of the city's largest employers and paid most of the City's taxes. Talented people were attracted to Culver City because of the studios. MGM hired only the best directors, cameramen, technicians, costume designers, makeup experts, and set designers. Because of these gifted employees MGM was able to make the successful transition from silent to talking films during the 1920's. They made significant advancements to the state of the art in all areas of creative endeavor. Culver City residents worked both in front of and behind the cameras. Local residents frequently had jobs as extras and usually were the ones to appear in mob scenes. Because of this constant need for extras, the studios did much to ease the serious unemployment problem during the Depression. MGM was also the main promoter of the star system which did much to promote and popularize movies through the 1920's, 30's and 40's. Culver City's City seal bears the motto "The Heart of Screenland". In 1937 the Chamber of Commerce adopted the slogan "Culver City — Where Hollywood Movies Are Made."

When Thomas Ince, the original owner of the Ince Triangle Studios which eventually became MGM, came to Culver City in 1915, he found a fledgling city with some streets laid out, a landscaped park, a scattering of houses, and several commercial buildings in the process of being constructed. Ince was the manager and director of a large western-themed studio and lot in the Santa Inez Canyon, operated by the New York Motion Picture Corporation (NYPC). The Canyon site was a long way for studio workers to travel (by Red Car), and he was searching for a location that was more convenient to Los Angeles. Ince was interested in branching out to produce a higher class of films, and was in need of indoor sets and permanent facilities for film technicians. Harry Culver offered Ince an 11-acre parcel along Washington Blvd. On July 20, 1915, a new division of the NYPC was formed with D. W. Griffith, Mack Sennett, and Thomas Ince, entitled Triangle Studios. In September of 1915 Triangle Studios purchased the eleven acres and proceeded to build a $30,000 studio. The first buildings, Army surplus barracks, were brought in on trucks and placed in the middle of the lot and still in use today.

The studio officially opened in January of 1916. In February, eight new glass stages were placed in service. These provided locations for indoor sets and were designed to maximize the use of the sun's rays for lighting. Some of these buildings were later
moved to the back of the lot and are currently in use as carpenter's shops. The impressive Beaux Arts front facade, used for office space and dressing rooms, was also constructed in February of 1916. It still forms the prominent front facade of the studio and retains most of its original integrity. In the fall of 1917 sixteen acres were added to the Ince Triangle Studios. That event, along with the incorporation of the city, was celebrated by the entire town on September 15, 1917. However, Triangle Studios was in financial trouble and the partnership soon dissolved. Thomas Ince left to become an independent producer, starting a new studio at the corner of Washington and what is now called Ince Blvd. That studio still stands and is known as the Culver Studios. D. W. Griffith and Mack Sennett also formed new independent companies.

Samuel Goldwyn arrived on the West Coast in 1918 and began to use the Triangle Studio lot. In May of 1919 he purchased the studio and hired Will Rogers to make *Doubled Stakes* and Mabel Normand to star in *Pinto*. Some of the movies made between 1919 and 1924 were: *Madame X*, starring Pauline Frederick; *Prisoners of Love* with Betty Compson; *Souls for Sale*, with with Eleanor Boardman and Barbara LaMarr; *The Rendezvous*, with Sydney Chaplin; and *Greed* starring Jean Hersholt and Zazu Pitts (directed by Erich Von Stroheim). Samuel Goldwyn strongly disagreed about the production of both *Greed* and *Ben Hur*, and left the studio in 1921. His name survived, however, as part of the new corporation formed on April 18, 1924. Metro Pictures Corp., Goldwyn Pictures Corp., and Louis B. Mayer Productions Inc., merged as the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio with the Marcus Loew Company in control. The controversial movie, *Greed*, was released to mixed reviews, and *Ben Hur* went into production in Rome in 1924. Ramon Novarro and Francis X. Bushman starred in this epic motion picture which was one of the most famous early motion pictures in history. Because of labor troubles, the crew and cast returned to Culver City to finish the movie. A replica of the Circus Maximus was constructed on Culver Blvd. and a great number of the residents of Culver City were used as extras in the chariot race scenes.

Louis B. Mayer and Irving Thalberg were running the studio in 1924. During the late 1920's many fine silent movies were filmed at the studio. They included: *The Big Parade*, starring John Gilbert and *Hallelujah*, both directed by King Vidor. By 1930 sound films had established themselves, and many classic movies were made at MGM. *Grand Hotel*, starring Joan Crawford; *Dinner at Eight* with Jean Harlow; *Min and Bill*, starring Wallace Beery and Marie Dressler; *David Copperfield* with Freddie Bartholomew; *The Good Earth*, starring Paul Muni and Luise Rainer; and one of the most famous movies of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*, starring Judy Garland. Sound films of the Forties included: *Mutiny on the Bounty*, with Charles Laughton; *The Thin Man Goes Home*, with William Powell; *Gaslight*, starring Ingrid Bergman; *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Katherine Hepburn; and *Boom Town*, featuring Clark Gable. Films of the Fifties included: *The Asphalt Jungle* with
Sterling Hayden and Marilyn Monroe; the epic *Quo Vadis* with Robert Taylor; the musical *Showboat* with Kathryn Grayson and Howard Keel; *An American in Paris*, starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron; and *Singing in the Rain* with Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor.

The star system, now a thing of the past, was invented by Louis Mayer and Irving Thalberg, and did much to bring about the golden era of movie stars. The studio, with its stable of well-known stars, would plan a publicity campaign for each new star. He or she would be featured in films with several of the studio's leading stars of the opposite sex. When the newcomer was established, he or she would star in a picture with a newer person of the opposite sex. In those days stars were the product of the publicity department and were surrounded with drama and mystery. Most appeared only at their glamorous best. Such stars as Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Greta Garbo, Betty Grable, Norma Shearer, Spencer Tracy, Joan Crawford, John Gilbert, Lon Chaney, Clark Gable, Wallace Beery, and Norma Dressler were products of the MGM star system.

The 1937 City Directory points out that motion pictures were the chief industry of the community and that Culver City was the chief center of the motion picture industry. The industry payroll was in excess of twenty-five million dollars annually, even during Depression days. Over 5,500 Culver City residents worked for the studios in 1937.

In 1941 Culver City produced more than half of all the films made in America, most made by MGM, which had a weekly payroll of more than $1,400,000. MGM boasted of having "more stars than the heavens." MGM continued to make films during WWII, many of them with a patriotic theme. By 1949, the studio was in trouble. Television had begun to take over the entertainment industry. Another source of competition was the growing movie-making industry in Europe. High production costs in America drastically cut profits and high U.S. taxes became a problem to the executives and stars. In addition, the federal courts ordered MGM to sell its theater distribution chain or go out of the movie business. In 1951 Louis B. Mayer resigned under pressure.

In 1969 Kirk Kerkorian, who controlled the majority of MGM stock, announced that all but the original 30 acres of the studio's property would be sold for development. Location shooting, made possible by lighter cameras and streamlined equipment, reduced the need for the back lots. A much-publicized auction was held to rid the studio of excess costumes, props, and other movie paraphernalia.

In January of 1975, MGM officials appeared before the Culver City Chamber of Commerce to announce new plans regarding motion picture production. It would
move its corporate headquarters from New York to Culver City and would begin to produce television programs. The MGM Studio buildings and lot were sold to Lorimar and are used for the production of many television series and movies for television, in the same buildings where Clark Gable, Greta Garbo, Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly and other famous stars plied their trade.
The grand entrance to the MGM-Lorimar Studios is a superior example of Beaux Arts architecture and retains most of its original integrity. A balustrade inset with elaborate cast concrete balusters, runs across the top. Large brick piers, edged in molding, separate the sections. A heavy cornice, lined with closely-set brackets, runs below the balustrade. Dentil trim defines the top of the frieze and molding trims the bottom. Two sets of 2-story high fluted columns, crowned with Corinthian capitals, frame the entrance. Two arches, one for entry and one for exit, define the entrance. The elaborate wrought iron gates are now permanently closed. A small security building, made of cast concrete in a Moderne style, is located between the sets of gates on the interior of the lot. Elaborate brackets are attached to the side walls of the entrance. Even though this is no longer the major entry through which the stars came into the studio, it is still significant for its original architecture and because it was sometimes seen in the movies, on television, or in the newspapers, featuring the studio's stars.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #2
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1916

STYLE:
BEAU ARTS

SOURCE: RATING:
P A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

The elaborate Beaux Arts building shown here was constructed just before the studio opened in 1916. Contrasting with the factory-like appearance of the inside of the studio, the entrance building is illustrative of the grandiose style and imagination often seen in early motion pictures. A balustrade, inset with elaborate cast concrete balusters, runs across the top of the three-story building that forms the eastern quarter of the 600+ foot long front facade. A wide cornice, accented by closely-spaced brackets and a row of dentil trim, fronts the flat-roofed building behind. A row of massive fluted columns, crowned with Corinthian capitals, supports the balcony. Rows of multi-paned windows look out from the front facade on the east side of the former main entrance. A blank facade, with a cornice accented in two places with pedimented gables, occupies the remainder of the front footage. The blank facade has no windows, but does exhibit Neo-classical character through the use of rounded pilaster, molded trim, and inset panels. The dressing rooms are located on the other side and the building is only 15 feet wide.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202   #11,12  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1930

STYLE:  
1930'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:  
E     C+

ALTERATIONS:  
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Two-stories high, with a flat roof and unbroken parapet trimmed in a narrow metal band, this 1930's Industrial building features a second story that cantilevers over the first story. It is clad in stucco, which appears to be original. A row of 8-over-1 double-hung wood sash windows runs along the second floor on both sides. The first floor features a row of 8-over-8 double-hung windows. A few air-conditioners have replaced the top half of the original windows. The south end of the building has a single-story addition which matches the two-story portion.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 #15 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1940

STYLE: INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: E RATING: C+

ALTERATIONS: M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Two-stories high, with a low-pitched side-facing gabled roof, the large industrial building shown here was built in 1940. A row of exposed rafter tails extends from the roof line. Groups of 4-over-4 double-hung wood-sashed windows run along the second story. Freight doors, clad in wood and accented by cross members and plain trim, open onto the first floor. A recessed entrance at the north end reveals the horizontal lapped boards of which the rest of the structure is constructed.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202  #31
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1917

STYLE:
NEO-CLASSICAL

SOURCE:  RATING:
E       A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
This shows the rear or south side of the impressive two-story facade that runs for 600+ feet along Washington Blvd. Originally built as dressing rooms, the small suites are now used for film processing. The brick structure is clad in stucco and a shed-style second-story porch runs along the length of the building. Double-hung windows, often in pairs, are used along the south side of the building, and 5-panel wooden doors lead to the interior. A wrought iron railing has been added between the original wooden posts.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202  #32
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1931

STYLE:
STREAMLINE MODERNE

SOURCE:  RATING:
E     B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

The stucco-clad building shown here is two-stories high, with a flat roof and unbroken parapet trimmed in a narrow band of metal. A narrow band of wood forms a ridge above the multi-paned metal-framed windows. Bands of the windows are used to accent the corners of the second story. The same windows are featured along the south side. A single door, topped with a metal canopy, leads to the interior from the east side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #33
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1940

STYLE:
1940'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Constructed of poured-in-place concrete, a popular building material in the 1940's, this two-story industrial building is rather plain. It has a two-story high flat roof, with a slight parapet on three sides and a slight overhang on the north side. A row of shed-style lights extends along the beltcourse between the first and second floors. The original metal pole supports for the recessed porch have been covered with concreteblock on each side, perhaps for extra support. Recessed under the second floor, the first floor features a row of metal-clad doors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
The business office shown here is two-stories high, topped with a flat roof and unbroken, metal-trimmed parapet, and clad in stucco. Score lines, typical of 30's architecture, accent the corners of both the first and second stories. A row of large multi-paned metal-framed windows, slightly recessed, runs along the second story. Some of the windows can be opened with a crank, but the outside and top sections are stationary. A pair of high 4-light metal-framed windows is located above the corner entrance. The windows on the first floor match those on the second floor. A rounded metal canopy shelters the door. Sets of square terracotta drain pipe accents the foundation. The section of stucco below the windows extends outward a few inches.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #35  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1933

STYLE:  
ZIGZAG MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:  
E  B+

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Three stories high and clad in stucco, this flat-roofed Moderne building is almost completely original. Rows of wood molding emphasize the tops and bottoms of the window sections. The multi-paned windows are framed with metal. The banks of windows accent the corners of all three floors. Recessed hallways lead to plain doors. The rails of the walkways are constructed of metal pipe.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202  #37  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1940

STYLE:  
1930'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  B+

ALTERATIONS:  
M

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:  
A covered wooden balcony runs along the second floor of the two-storied stucco-clad building shown here. The flat roof supports a shed-style balcony roof, edged in closely-set exposed rafter tails. A row of double-hung windows, sometimes in pairs and trios, runs across the second floor. The balcony is fronted with a row of closely-set plain balusters, set between square support posts. A metal railing borders the newer wooden steps that lead to the second floor. A beltcourse forms a double ledge between the first and second floors. Rows of double-hung windows, recessed into the stucco, run along the first floor. A square bay extends forward on the south wall and contains a pair of the same windows.

SIGNIFICANCE:  
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 #38 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1935

STYLE: STREAMLINE MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING: E A+

ALTERATIONS: F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

The Irving Thalberg Building is one of the most impressive Moderne structures in Southern California. Its symmetrical classic design and fine detailing make it a good example of the Moderne style. Set on an angle at the entrance to the studio, the building can be easily seen from all directions. Its three-story high wings extend in both directions, across each end of the main core. The square four-story flat-roofed entrance tower rises above the rest of the building and is crowned with a set-back ridge and a row of pleated trim across the top of the main parapet. The plain frieze below is dotted with large round rosettes. Five sets of three-story high windows, separated with square stucco-clad columns, create a strong vertical pattern above the main entrance. A rounded metal canopy shelters the doors. Square bays, with flat roofs and a row of luted banding, wrap around each corner of the tower and continue to the north and south to form wings. The wings are T-shaped and feature two-story high recessed metal-framed windows. The fluted edge forms a band around the entire building. Each window is topped with an elaborate cornice. The windows along the first floor match the location of those above and are also recessed, multi-paned, and metal-framed. Two huge lanterns, on elaborate pedestals, flank the wide concrete steps which lead to the main entrance. The rear of the building matched the front and is just as beautifully finished.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202    #39
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1935

STYLE:
MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:
E    B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
This is one of several Moderne buildings that were built during the 1920's. The 30's was an important era in the evolution of sound movies. Many of screenland's greatest stars used these buildings. The stucco-clad exterior is original and has a narrow rim along the top of the second story windows and along the bottom of the first story windows. The recessed double-hung windows have a narrow vertical border of glass on the outside edges. They are used singly and in pairs in both the first and second floors, in a matching pattern. The entrance is in the southeast corner and is delineated with a square offset bay. A stairway leads to the second floor entrance. A wooden door, accented with a large window, leads to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
10202    #40
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1938

STYLE:
1930'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E     C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
A low-pitched front-facing gabled roof caps the single-story industrial building shown above. Corrugated metal sheets cover the exterior of the original building. A combination of 4-over-4 and 6-over-6 double-hung windows are used along the front facade. An addition on the west side is clad in lapped board. The shed-style roof is almost flat and has a wide overhang. Batten boards trim the corners. The addition has 4-over-4 windows that match those on the original building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #41  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1917

STYLE:  
EARLY INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  C+

ALTERATIONS:  
S

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:  

This building has some interesting features. The main structure is capped with a shed-style roof, supported across the front by triangular braces. A row of garage doors, clad in carsiding and accented with 6-light windows at the top, once formed the entire front of this building. A row of 6-light transom windows form a row across the top of the doors. The original doors on the south end have been replaced by a newer set of wooden doors, with wire mesh covering the opening above. The addition to the south is flat-roofed and supported by posts made of peeled logs. Plywood walls and aluminum windows have been added along the front.

SIGNIFICANCE:  

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #42
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1917

STYLE:
EARLY INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
S

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
The second story of the building shown above is clad in lapped siding, while the first floor is clad in stucco. The building is capped with a side-facing low-pitched gabled roof. It is probable that the second floor is an addition. Aluminum windows are used throughout the second floor. Below, three-light metal-framed windows are deeply-recessed in the first floor facade. The deeply-recessed doors, with windows in the top half and recessed panels below, lead to the interior. A set of wooden steps runs up the west side to the second floor. The small open porches are clad in vertical siding.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
A wide four-tiered beltcourse is the most prominent Moderne feature of the stucco-clad two-story building shown above. It forms a second story balcony on the south side of the building. A recessed porch, supported by large round stucco-clad pillars, shelters the large multi-paned windows in the first floor. Multi-paned metal-framed casement windows, capped with 6-light fixed transoms, punctuate the second story. A flat roof and unbroken parapet form the top of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #44  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1918

STYLE:  
1910'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
P  B

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
The powerhouse on the Lorimar Studios lot is one of several buildings in that complex which are over 50 years old. The powerhouse is located along the back fence on Culver Boulevard, but is not accessible from that street. The single-story flat-roofed stucco-clad structure is capped with a smaller rectangular wooden tower with a hipped roof. Three round smoke stacks also extend from the roof top. A stucco-clad cornice accents the top of the parapet. Some of the original multi-light, wood-framed windows still exist in some areas of the building. There are numerous pipes along the exterior of the building and four medium-sized metal storage tanks adjacent to the east side of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:
Built in 1915, by Triangle Studios (formed by Thomas Ince, D.W. Griffith, and Mack Sennett), this studio was officially opened in 1916 with 8 glass stages, office space, dressing rooms and technical work shops (some of which were housed in Army surplus barracks moved to the site). The most famous and long-term owner of the studio was Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer which acquired the studio in 1924 and retained ownership until 1986. Known as the "world's largest studio" in 1925, their properties covered almost two square miles of territory and their products included such film classics as the 1924 BEN HUR and the 1930's WIZARD OF OZ. Although not architectural significant individually, the powerhouse is significant as a part of a grouping of historically significant buildings.
ADDRESS: 10202 #45 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1930

STYLE: STREAMLINE MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING: E A+

ALTERATIONS: F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

A rounded corner accents the two-story Streamlined Moderne Commisary. Large multi-paned windows, interspersed throughout the building let in large amounts of light. Stucco-clad panels are used between and below the first floor windows. A row of multi-paned windows run along the second story, below the flat roof. The interior of the Commisary has recently been remodeled. The Commissary is where the stars, directors and producers eat lunch. This was especially true during the days of the "star system" in the 30's, 40's and 50's.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

Designed in the Spanish style, the single-storied school building in the center of the lot is now used for offices. The low-pitched side-facing gabled roof was clad in red clay tiles and the walls were clad in stucco. The eaves were edged in exposed rafter tails. A large stucco-clad chimney dominates the front facade. The 6-light casement windows are deeply-recessed into the facade. The paneled wood door is set in a recessed arch. This was where Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Roddy McDowall and other famous child stars attended school when they were making a film.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #47  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1930

STYLE:  
MODERNE

SOURCE:  
E

RATING:  
B+

ALTERATIONS:  
M

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

A varied roof line, outlined in narrow horizontal bands, caps the three-storied stucco-clad building shown above. A square, flat-roofed section projects above the row of multi-paned metal-framed windows in the center of the third floor. Horizontal bands run both above and below the band of windows and extend to the east end of the building. A matching row of windows is located in the center of the second story, and a horizontal band runs from the top of these windows to the curved roof line on the west end. A metal awning, added fairly recently, shelters the walk-in doors and windows along the first floor. A freight door, constructed of wood with wood strips forming rectangles, is located beside the windows. 4-over-4 double-hung windows are used in the first floor facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

Lorimar District
ADDRESS:  
10202 #48  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1935

STYLE:  
STREAMLINE MODERNE

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E B+

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

A flat roof and unbroken parapet caps the two-story stucco-clad Moderne building shown here. The second floor windows are accented by horizontal bands which run below and above the windows in a continuous line. Horizontal scorelines run parallel to the bands and strengthen the horizontal emphasis. Pairs of 4-light casement windows, flanked by matching 4-light stationary windows and topped by matching transoms, are used throughout the building. A band of three such groupings forms a row along the first story and the south sides. Moderne architecture was a distinctive departure from the formal Neo-classical Beaux Arts elegance featured in the grand entrance and Washington Street facade of this studio lot. Moderne styling is well represented here.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #49  
WASHINGTON BLVD.  

DATE:  
1938  

STYLE:  
MODERNE  

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  C+  

ALTERATIONS:  
M  

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO  

DESCRIPTION:  
Cast concrete is the building material used to construct this two-story Moderne building. The shape of the horizontally-placed boards used to form the walls can still be seen on the exterior walls. A flat roof, with an unbroken parapet outlined with a ledge, caps the building. Below the parapet, the balcony is covered with a metal shed-style roof. The balcony, constructed of cast concrete with supporting wood brackets, is accented with pipe rails and supports. No windows can be seen along the second floor, but there are plain pilasters evenly spaced across the entire second floor facade. Casement windows are used throughout the first floor.  

SIGNIFICANCE:  
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #50
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1918

STYLE:
1910'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
P  B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

This is one of the few brick buildings ever built in this large complex. It is three stories high and capped with a flat roof and unbroken parapet. The top story is clad in stucco, has different windows, and appears to have been added in later years. Large and small metal pipes obscure much of the building. The northeast corner is segmented, forming a curve. Metal framed, multi-paned windows look out from the first and second stories. Freight doors can been seen along the first floor.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

A flat roof and unbroken parapet, edged with a stucco-clad ledge, tops this two-story stucco-clad building. A tower with a hipped roof is located at the west end. Double-hung wood-sashed windows are used in the second story. A row of small square vents runs below the windows. A beltcourse divides the first and second stories horizontally. The windows on the first floor are double-hung and recessed. The doors have small stoops and are also recessed.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #52
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1940

STYLE:
METAL INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
A low-pitched side-facing gabled roof, accented by exposed rafter tails, caps this large single-storied industrial building. Corrugated metal sheets cover the exterior, and large freight openings form a row along the front facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #53
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1940

STYLE:
METAL INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
Clad in corrugated metal sheets, the two-story industrial building shown above is capped with a side-facing gabled roof with exposed rafter tails at the eaves. A row of multi-paned stationary windows forms a band along the second story. A pair of 24-light stationary windows is located on the first floor, next to a pair of matching narrower windows. A large freight door and a walk-in door are located to the east of center, along the first floor. An opening above the walk-in door appears to be an elevator loading platform.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202  #54  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1930

STYLE:  
METAL INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  C+

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:  
Corrugated metal sheets cover the exterior of the industrial building shown here. A low-pitched side-facing gabled roof, with narrow eaves, caps the structure. Two sets of freight doors, clad in metal, slide to the west side, when needed.

SIGNIFICANCE:  
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #55
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1917

STYLE:
NEO-CLASSICAL BRICK

SOURCE: RATING:
E   B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Originally used as dressing rooms, this two-story row of suites runs along the back of the impressive classical facade facing Washington. Double-hung windows and five-panel doors form a row along each floor. Sets of steps, bordered in wrought iron railings, lead to the second floor balcony. The steps and railing are replacements. Square posts support the roof and balcony. The balcony has been enclosed on the west end by a solid stucco-clad wall and aluminum windows. The rooms are now used for film processing.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #56
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1917

STYLE:
FRAME INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E  B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

This building has been drastically altered recently, but it is one of the pre-1920 structures on the lot. The flat parapet and roof overhang along the perimeter of the roof line. Aluminum windows are recessed along the second story, and a recessed walk-in door is reached by a set of metal stairs which lead to the building across the way as well as to the ground. Most of the windows along the first floor are recessed, multi-paned and metal-framed. A new window and door are located near the southwest corner.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #57  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1917

STYLE:  
WOODEN BARRACKS

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E          A+

ALTERATIONS:  
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

This is one of the original wooden barracks that were the first buildings on the studio lot in 1915. It has seen few alterations. Lapped board covers the exterior and a low-pitched gabled roof, edged in exposed rafter tails, caps the structure. A balcony runs the length of the building. Pairs of 6-over-6 windows, neatly set in plain trim, alternate with pairs of doors with windows in the top half. Matching windows are used in pairs on the first floor, but the doors are solid five-panel doors. Square posts support both the first and second floor porches. Plain rails run between the posts. The first floor porch is a few feet off the ground.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 #58 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1930

STYLE: STUCCO-CLAD INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING: E C+

ALTERATIONS: S

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
A flat roof with shed-style extensions on each side caps this three-story building. A piece of metal trim runs along the top of the parapet. Stucco covers the exterior and large wooden doors slide on tracks. The doors are clad in wood with a criss-cross design on the exterior.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:  
10202 #59  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1920

STYLE:  
FRAME INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:  
E  C+

ALTERATIONS:  
M

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:  

Used as the gardener's headquarters, this single-storied flat-roofed building was built in 1920. Lapped boards, trimmed with batten boards at the corners, cover the exterior. A pair of matching double-hung windows, trimmed in plain boards, are placed side-by-side in the front facade. The plain door is located to the west of the windows. Other windows in the sides match those in the front.

SIGNIFICANCE:  

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

These original glass stages were moved to this location from the front of the lot and are now in use as carpenter's shops. They were the scene of the filming of some of America's best-loved early movies. The rows of glass, below the low-pitched gabled roof, were designed to let in as much light as possible. The second story is almost solid glass panels. A variety of freight and walk-in doors lead to the interior and there is some first floor alteration.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #62
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1920

STYLE:
FRAME INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

One of the frame buildings constructed during the early days of the studio, this two-story lapped board building is capped with a low-pitched front-facing gabled roof. Exposed rafter tails accent the eaves and horizontal louvered vents are centered in the gable ends. Batten boards trim the exterior corners. Double-hung windows form rows along the second story side facades. Several of the windows on the first floor match those above, but the windows near and on the north end are 4-over- 4 vertical-paneled double-hung windows. A wooden stairway runs from the ground to the second floor, leading to a plain wooden door (not original). Another plain wooden door opens into the first floor.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

Stucco now covers this two-story building. Enclosed eaves, clad in stucco, form a cornice at the top of the flat-roofed building. Aluminum windows replace all of the original windows.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202  #64
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1930

STYLE:
1930'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:   RATING:
E          C+

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
A low-pitched gabled roof, edged in exposed rafter tails, caps this three story stucco-clad building. Two vents, shaped like square pilasters are located near the center of the east side. A series of three-light casement windows forms a row across the third story. There are no windows in the first or second stories. A pair of large metal-clad freight doors open near the south side and a pair of stairs leads to the third floor on the east side.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #65
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1930-40

STYLE:
1930'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:  RATING:
E  C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Stucco covers the exterior of this altered building. Aluminum windows now replace the original. A row of three windows, shaded with a metal awning (also not original) opens to the west side. A recessed corridor leads to a pair of wooden doors to the left of the windows.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 #66 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1920

STYLE: FRAME INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING: E C+

ALTERATIONS: F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Board-and-batten siding covers the flat-roofed section of this two-storied industrial building. An addition on the right is clad in lapped board and edged in batten boards. A large wooden freight door leads to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 
10202    #67
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 
1930

STYLE: 
1930'S STUCCO INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:       RATING: 
E         C+

ALTERATIONS: 
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: 
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION: 
Stucco covers the two-storied flat-roofed building shown here. Large 9-light stationary windows are used in pairs along the second floor. Stairs, with a pipe railing, lead to a carsiding-covered shed-style entry. Windows on the first floor are double-hung and recessed, with three vertical panes in each section.

SIGNIFICANCE: 
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 #68  WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1930

STYLE: 1930'S BRICK INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E  C+

ALTERATIONS: M

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT: LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

Red brick was used to construct the single-storied industrial building shown above. A low-pitched front-facing gabled roof is clad in rolled roofing material. A metal freight door and window open to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #69
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1920

STYLE:
1920'S NEO-CLASSICAL BRICK

SOURCE: RATING:
E A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:

This is one of the strongest buildings, architecturally speaking, on this studio lot. Three stories high, and constructed of brick, the building features rows of arched recessed double-hung windows, which form a rhythmic pattern along each floor. Structural members which run from the ground to the roof produce a vertical emphasis. Each floor has its original iron balcony-style fire escape and stairs. The wooden freight doors, accented with multi-paneled windows, are recessed along the first floor. This building has seen few alterations.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 #70
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1925

STYLE:
1920'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E B+

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
Stucco covers the main portion of the three-story building shown here. A cantilevered bay, centered with a hood-style opening, is located on the third floor and is underscored with pipe supports. Adjacent to the bay is a closed bay on the second floor. The single-story lapped board addition is almost as old as the main section of the building. The roof is shed-style, with narrow eaves. Openings along the top half of the addition are covered with lapped board doors. A few wooden doors lead to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

Stucco covers the three-story buildings shown here. Twin sections, topped with front-facing Dutch Colonial roofs with close eaves, are joined by a flat-roofed-stucco-clad center section. Wooden freight doors, clad in calsiding and having a criss-cross design, lead to the interior. There are no windows in this building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 S-3
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1935

STYLE:
MODERNE

SOURCE:  RATING:
E  A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
Stucco covers the exterior of the sound stage buildings shown here. Twin arched parapets crown the front facade. Moderne-style pilasters feature a stepped design near the top. A 12-light metal-framed window is centered in the section between the two arched facades. Below is a walk-in door, flanked by large freight doors. The building gathers its significance because of all the well-loved movies and television shows made inside and the famous persons who have worked there.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10202 S-4 Washington Blvd.

DATE: 1935

STYLE: Moderne

SOURCE: Rating: E A+

ALTERATIONS: F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT: Lorimar Studio

DESCRIPTION:

This is another of the sound stages where movies and television shows are made. Stucco covers the exterior and the twin halves of the building are topped with stepped parapets and joined by a central section. Huge freight door lead to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

A varied flat roof line adds to the factory-like appearance of this two storied industrial building. It was constructed of poured-in-place concrete. The horizontal ridges were made by the horizontal boards used as forms to hold the concrete. A corrugated metal shed has been added to the west side. There are no windows in the building. The doors are metal-clad. There are no windows in the sound stages because privacy and protection from outside noises and lights is needed when shooting film.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 S-6
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1935

STYLE:
ZIGZAG MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:
E A+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
The three-story high building shown here is one of the sound stages and illustrates the fact that most of the stages are very utilitarian in character and do not have a lot of openings to the exterior. Stucco-clad, with a flat roof and modified stepped shape, the building has a row of four Moderne stripes approximately one-quarter of the way down from the roof. The other side of the building contains two-story high freight doors which lead to the sound stages. Although this building has little architectural character, it has a significant history because of all the famous movie stars and directors who have worked here, the creative forces which put many talents together to produce a successful movie, and the economic support it gives to the citizens of Culver City.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

This three-story building is another flat-roofed sound stage building. The ridges from the boards used in the poured-in-place concrete method form horizontal rows along the sides of the building. It, too, is one of the plain industrial buildings used to make movies.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 S-8
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1940

STYLE:
STUCCO-CLAD INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
A flat roof and stucco-clad exterior form the size and shape of the three-story building shown here. Sections of plain stucco are alternated with square pilasters, accented with narrow strips near the top. A balcony with a metal pipe railing shelters the first floor. Double-hung windows are recessed in the first floor facade. A recessed door, topped with a Moderne motif, leads to the interior. Again, this three-story sound stage building is utilitarian in nature.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
DESCRIPTION:

A flat roof, with a slight cave at the top, caps this three-story sound stage. The walls are plain stucco and serve to provide soundproofing and privacy for the people making movies and television films inside. Two sets of two-story-high wooden doors lead to the interior at the north end of the building. There is little architectural detailing.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS:
10202 S-10
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1930

STYLE:
STUCCO-CLAD INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE:      RATING:
E           C+

ALTERATIONS:
S

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
LORIMAR STUDIO

DESCRIPTION:
This is one of the sound stages where television shows and movies are made. It has been altered and is now clad in stucco. The roof is flat and there are no windows. Large metal-clad freight doors lead to the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:
See District Introduction for General Significance.
ADDRESS: 10722 WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE: 1923

STYLE: MANUF. STONE COMMERCIAL

SOURCE: RATING: P B

ALTERATIONS: F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:
Manufactured stone covers the exterior of the single-story commercial building at 10722 Washington. A flat roof, fronted with a straight parapet and topped with a ledge, is accented with short pilasters at the corners. Large plate glass windows flank the deeply-recessed centered entrance, which features diagonally-placed plate glass windows. Manufactured stone was the forerunner of our modern-day concrete block and was a very popular product in Southern California. This building is a good example of construction with that material.

SIGNIFICANCE:
The building at 10722 was constructed in 1923 by owner George J. Kana. Described in the permit records as a "concrete block store and dwelling", the building housed a store room and three living rooms in a 21' by 25' area with a 20' by 20' garage. In 1961 Beacon Laundry owned the building. This building is interesting as an early example of combined commercial and residential use and is significant for its use of manufactured stone as a building material, since it is one of the few remaining in Culver City from that era.
ADDRESS:  
12400 04  
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:  
1920

STYLE:  
NEO-CLASSICAL COMMERCIAL

SOURCE: RATING:  
E B

ALTERATIONS:  
M

RESIDENCE:  

COMMENT:  

DESCRIPTION:

One of several wedge-shaped buildings representative of Culver City as a result of the City's unusual street pattern, this two-story brick commercial building retains a significant amount of its original design. Trimmed with cream-colored face brick and white ceramic tile squares, the building is at a highly visible location on an important intersection. Rows of recessed wood-framed double-hung windows, used in pairs, line the east and north facade. The cream-colored face brick is used for the cornices and window ledges. Typically, the original storefront windows have been replaced with modern metal-framed plate glass. The entrance door, located between two pilasters of face brick, is not original. The building is still in commercial use, and is a good example of the substantial brick commercial structures built throughout Southern California during the 1920's.

SIGNIFICANCE:

No early records are found for this building in the City's permit files. The building housed McKibbon Drugs in the 1950's and was well-known to local residents. The building is significant for its contribution to the early economic growth of the City and as a good example of brick commercial architecture of that era.
ADDRESS:
11333
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1910

STYLE:
AUTO COMMERCIAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E   B

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

DESCRIPTION:

This small rectangular filling station building is clad in narrow clapboard siding edged in corner boards. Another board forms a band around the flat roof. A pair of stationary light windows flank the centered door. The same style 9-light stationary windows are used on both sides. A matching Colonial Revival house and garage are located to the north and east of the filling station.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The rare 1920's filling station located on the corner is still in use in the auto repair business. Few 1920's filling stations still exist in Southern California. These were built during a significant era in the history of the automobile and its impact on the nation.