

CULVER STUDIOS

The Culver Studios, originally owned by Thomas H. Ince, consist of approximately 40 buildings, most of which were designed in the Colonial Revival style. The complex is located at the corner of Washington and Ince Boulevards. On July 19, 1918, Harry Culver agreed to supply the land for the new Ince Studios, on an option basis, and to supply Ince with a \$132,000 loan. Within a year the grand administration building, called the "mansion", was finished, with stages and auxiliary buildings completed soon after. A wide circular driveway leads to the brick steps of the two-story Colonial Revival building, which closely resembles a southern mansion, with its white clapboards and two-story columned porch. Green shutters flank the 6-over-6 double hung windows and a Palladian window caps the paneled front door. The expansive lawn is well maintained and surrounded by the original brick and lattice-work fence. Other buildings, added at the sides in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's, continue the Colonial Revival theme. Behind the administration building are located several single-story Colonial Revival buildings, as well as the more utilitarian stages, carpenter shop, scene dock and power plant. A small group of bungalows, built for various movie stars, is located on the west side and were designed in styles popular in the 1920's and 30's. The buildings and grounds are all well maintained and retain their original integrity. The entire studio lot appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places on the basis of its architectural character and integrity, as well as for the persons and events connected with it from its beginnings in 1918 to the present. During the last 70 years a myriad of world famous directors, producers, movie stars, and artists passed through the gates of this studio. The following movie production studios have occupied the premises:

Thomas H. Ince Studios Inc.

Thomas Ince must have been captivated by the charm and romance of the Colonial Revival architecture represented in the typical southern mansion. His large, two-story administration building, the centerpiece of the studio lot, sets the theme for eleven other buildings flanking both sides of the main building and extending behind it. Meyer and Holler were the architects for the administration building, which was the first building to be built on the lot. The Milwaukee Building Company was in charge of construction. Not only does the building retain its original architectural integrity, but also its original setting.

In 1920 two glass stages, a hospital, fire department, reservoir/swimming pool, and back lot were completed. Two film companies, the Charles Ray Company and the Dorothy Dalton Company, were already at work on the lot. The first films released which were made at the new studio were: Irving Willat's *Behind the Door* (with Hobart Bosworth), Dorothy Dalton's *Black is White*, Charles Ray's *Homer Comes*

Home, directed by Jerome Storm, *Hairpins*, starring Enid Bennett and directed by Fred Niblo, and *The Typhoon*, starring Sessue Hayakawa. President Wilson visited the Ince Studios in 1920. The King and Queen of Belgium, along with Prince Leopold, took a tour of the studio, among much pomp and ceremony.

David Shepard says, in the book, The American Film Heritage,

"Thomas Ince did everything. He was so proficient at every aspect of film making that even films he didn't direct have the Ince-print, because he exercised such tight control over his scripts and edited so mercilessly that he could delegate direction to others and still get what he wanted. Much of what Ince contributed to the American film took place off the screen; he established production conventions that persisted for years, and, though his career in films lasted only fourteen years, his influence far outlived him."

Louis Dullac wrote that "He was the first to synthesize the confused but brilliant impulses of this art as it emerges from the matrix". Jean Cocteau, in describing the movie *Carmen of the Klondike*, said that "a spectacle such as this seems in recollection to equal the world's greatest literature." Others called Ince "the enigma of the picture drama." Marc Wanamaker, film historian, says that the Thomas H. Ince Studios Inc. was a center of creativity and innovation in film production until Mr. Ince's untimely death at the end of 1924".

Charles Ray, Sessue Hayakawa and William S. Hart were some of Ince's best known stars. Charles Ray starred in several Ince pictures from 1912 to 1921. Their most famous picture was *The Coward*, a drama about the Civil War. Ray usually played a simple, but sensitive country boy who was threatened by bullies, but his courage and convictions always surfaced to win in the end. Sessue Hayakawa was discovered by Ince in 1913, when he starred in the play *The Typhoon*. In the 1920's he made 25 pictures in three years. Sessue lived the part of a star both on and off the screen, often entertaining as many as 900 people for dinner in his greystone castle. He rose to a stature enjoyed by no other non-Caucasian actor. William S. Hart was considered by some to have been the greatest early western star. He achieved an unparalleled authenticity in his movies. He grew up in the West with his half Irish and half English family, and had high standards of integrity. *The Squaw Man*, *The Virginian*, and *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine* were three of his most famous pictures. The mansion itself "starred" in some films. In 1924, Regal Pictures, a new film distributing company in conjunction with Ince Productions, produced the movie *Barbara Frietchie* using the Ince Studios mansion as its setting.

DeMille Studios.

The next owner of the studio complex, in 1925, was Cecil B. De Mille. He bought the property from Mrs. Ince, with financing from the Producers Distributing Corp. On February 26, 1925, all of Culver City welcomed the De Mille Studios with a ceremony held on the steps of the "mansion". Mayor Houck, Louis B. Mayer, and Joseph Schenck presented De Mille with the key to the city. The headlines of the Culver City Star proclaimed:

"Welcome Cecil B. De Mille! Welcome Joseph Schenck! Welcome Wampas and Baby Stars--and all other celebrities of filmdom! Culver City greets you with sincere hospitality and offers you the "golden" key to the 'The Heart of Screenland.' On every hand our merchants are displaying this welcome to you in the form of flags, banners, bunting, pennants and other colorful decorations. This manifestation of welcome comes direct from the heart of our citizens -- a silent demonstration of our solid friendship for you and yours".

The newspaper also reported that De Mille was planning a forty million dollar production schedule for 1925. De Mille also instituted a "buy-at-home" movement to utilize local products and local talents which helped to bring added revenue to Culver City.

The Road to Yesterday, starring Joseph Schildkraut and Jetta Goudal, was the first picture produced by De Mille Studios on the new lot. Directors working on the lot included William De Mille (Cecil's brother), James Horne, William K. Howard, and Donald Crisp. Stars of this era working at the studio included Zazu Pitts, Bessie Love, Jack Mulhall, Bryant Washburn, and William Boyd (familiar to most as Hopalong Cassidy). *The Volga Boatman* and *Her Man O' War* were two of the films produced that year. In 1927 De Mille Studios produced *King of Kings*, *The Yankee Clipper*, *Rubber Tires*, and *The Heart Thief*. In that year DeMille built the theater located on the east side of the administration building (the "mansion") and matched its Colonial Revival styling. The theatre is still known as the DeMille Theatre.

RKO and RKO-Pathe Studios.

Several smaller companies, R. C. A, K-A-O, Pathe, and PDC merged together to form a new company called RKO. Although the RKO name was to become one of the most prominent among movie studios, few people know that the initials stand for Radio Keith Orpheum. Cecil B. De Mille wrote "I turned over all my keys to my office to William Siström, general manager for PDC. My letter of transmittal was significantly addressed to him at the Pathe Studios, Culver City, Calif. The De Mille

Studio is no more." Having sold all of his stock to the new organization, De Mille moved over to MGM to continue to make motion pictures.

January 1929 brought a significant change to motion pictures: the first "talkies" were introduced. *Geraldine* was that first movie to have talking sequences. Tay Garnett, Joseph Santley, and Edmund Goulding were among the directors working at RKO. Carol Lombard appeared in *Big News*, Ann Harding was in *Paris Bound*, and Ina Claire was in *The Awful Truth*. Pola Negri, Constance Bennett, and Robert Armstrong were other prominent RKO stars. At the end of 1930 RKO merged with Pathe to create the RKO-Pathe Studios.

The studio instituted an austerity program during the early 1930's, due to the economic hardships of the Great Depression. However, movies continued to be made and watched since these were inexpensive entertainment and gave the public a chance to spend a few hours a week trying to forget their troubles. Several landmark movies were made during the early 30's, including *King Kong*, *Bring 'Em Back Alive*, *What Price Hollywood*, and *A Bill of Divorcement*. Several of the sound stages and portions of the back lot were leased out. Popular stars at the studio in 1934 included June Collyer, Paul Kelly, Neil Hamilton, William Boyd, Jack La Rue, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, William Powell, Kathryn Hepburn, and Victor McLaglen. *Top Hat* and *Becky Sharp* were among the most popular pictures produced that year.

The Selznick Years.

Well known producer David Selznick leased the entire RKO-Pathe Studio in 1935. Selznick International Pictures took up residence on the lot and produced fine classic pictures for the next 14 years. Selznick made architectural changes to the studio by moving one of the Colonial Revival buildings to the east side of the lot, beside the mansion and adding a compatible building on to the front. Perhaps the most memorable film produced here during the Selznick years was *Gone With the Wind*. The studio lot still includes the Colonial Revival double bungalow shared by Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh during the production of this film. Other films were *The Garden of Allah*, *A Star is Born*, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *Rebecca*, *Duel in the Sun*, *Since You Went Away*, and *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (with Freddie Bartholomew). Marlene Dietrich and Charles Boyer were in *The Garden of Allah*.

In the late 1930's such films as *Room Service* with the Marx Brothers and *Intermezzo* with Ingrid Bergman were produced. In 1940 Selznick produced *Rebecca*, featuring Laurence Olivier. Orson Welles started production on the classic *Citizen Kane* on June 24, 1940. He used one of the bungalows on the west side of the lot for his office.

In 1943 David Selznick formed Vanguard Pictures. He continued to produce fine movies throughout the 1940's, including *The Robe*, *Three's a Family*, *Tarzan and the Amazons*, *Since you Went Away*, *I'll Be Seeing You*, *Spellbound*, *The Spiral Staircase*, *Till the end of Time* and *The Paradine Case*. Jennifer Jones starred in *Portrait of Jennie* in 1949. Selznick Studios and Vanguard Pictures filed for bankruptcy. That same year all assets of the companies were liquidated.

The Studio 1950's to Present.

In 1950 Howard Hughes took over ownership of the RKO studios. Some of his directors were: Mel Ferrer, Don Siegel, Alfred Werker, John Cromwell, and Lesley Selander. The popular *Superman* series was made from 1951-1953. Independent producers rented space on the lot and made features and television movies.

In 1957 Desilu Productions purchased the studio and made significant changes in the use of the lot. There were several newspaper pictures showing Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz receiving the key to the city or holding a press conference. The residents of Culver City were enthusiastic about the sale, and felt that Desilu would bring new life to the old studio. Pilots for many important television series were made under the Desilu name: *The Untouchables*, *Whirlybirds*, *Sheriff of Cochise*, *The Texan* and *U. S. Marshal*, and *Star Trek*. From 1957 until 1967 the lot was very busy with all kinds of independent productions. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* was released in 1965. After the breakup of the Arnaz-Ball marriage, Lucille Ball ran the studio. In 1967 the holdings were sold to Paramount Pictures. They kept the studio lot for one year before selling it to a real estate investor. Television series made on the lot included *Peyton Place*, *Felony Squad*, *Green Hornet*, *Batman*, and *Lassie*.

Laird International purchased the studio complex in 1977 and the lot continued to produce quality motion pictures. The films *Under the Rainbow*, *Airplane*, *Carrie*, *True Confessions*, *Rocky II*, *King of the Gypsies*, *Raging Bull*, and *The Jerk* were some of the movies made here during that time. The *Cher Specials* and *Osmond Brothers Christmas Shows* were also produced here.

The studio lot is being restored under its present ownership and Thomas Ince would be proud of the sparkling clean white and green buildings and the well-tended landscaping. The studio is significant for many of the same economic and social reasons as MGM Studios. As the second major studio in the City, it helped to identify the City as a center for the industry, rather than a "Company Town" with a single employer. The changing ownerships of this studio is indicative of the changing nature of the industry and the rise in prominence of many independent producers. Additionally, this studio is significant architecturally for its "Mt. Vernon" theme (1920's Colonial Revival) which is interpreted in the mansion (administration building) as well as many other buildings on the lot.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9336
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1927

STYLE:
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: **RATING:**
E B+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

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 wainscotting.

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.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9336 #B
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1940

STYLE:
1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: **RATING:**
E C+

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
CULVER STUDIO



DESCRIPTION:

Wide lapped siding covers the exterior of the single-storied Colonial- styled double bungalow to the west of the administration building. A side-facing gabled roof tops features enclosed eaves and returns. Matching 9-light windows, which open from the top, are used throughout the building. Gabled porticos shelter the two entrances, on the east side of the building. Chippendale-style balustrades border the porches and run along the sidewalk at the front of the building.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #C

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1918-19

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE:

E

RATING:

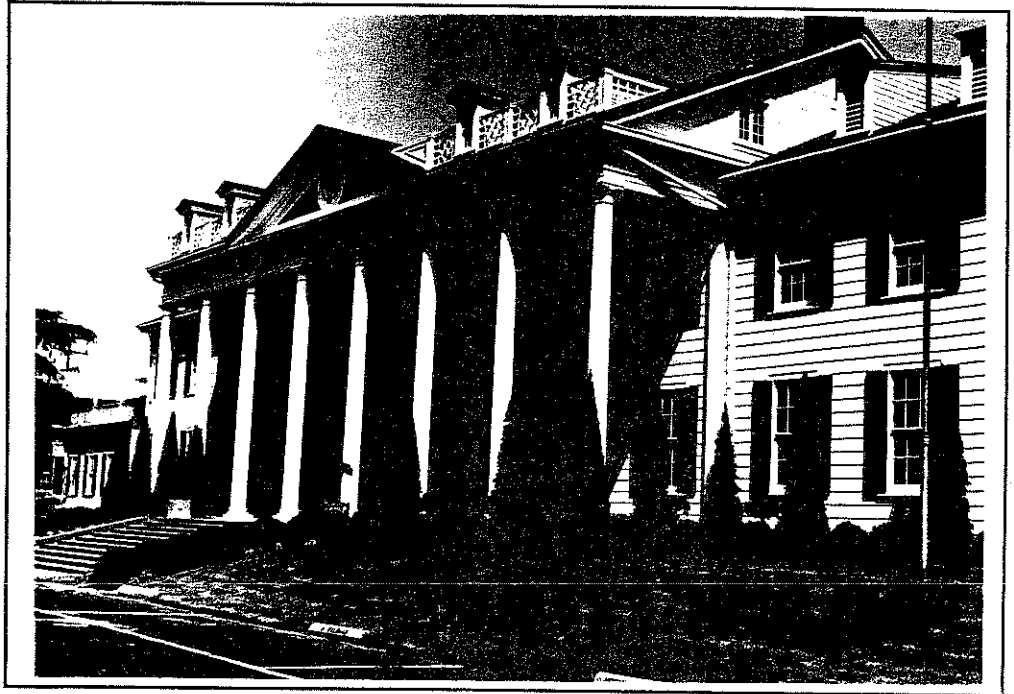
A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #D (N)
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1936

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

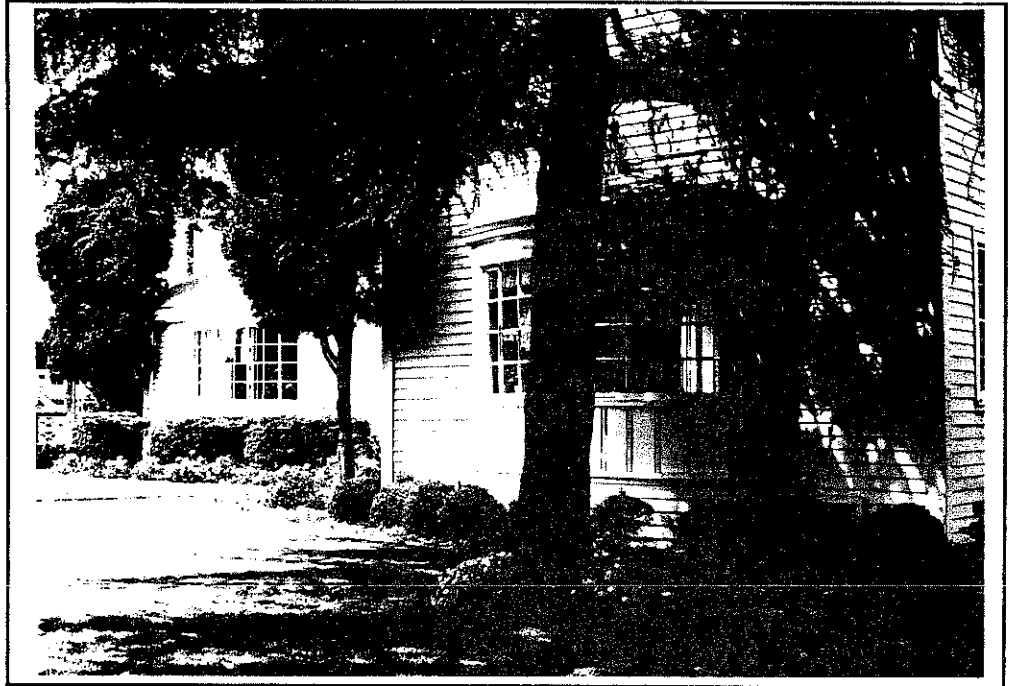
P A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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 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:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #D (S)

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1924

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE:

E

RATING:

A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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:

David Selznick moved this building here from another location on the lot in 1927.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #E

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1922

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Narrow shiplap siding covers the exterior of the Colonial-style cottage across from the DeMille Theatre. The side-facing gabled roof is centered with a front-facing portico with a gabled roof. Square wood posts with champfores edges and molding at the top support the portico. 6-over-6 windows, used both in pairs and singly, match the windows on the administration building. A gabled wing, with a recessed porch across the back, extends from the south side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #F

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1920

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

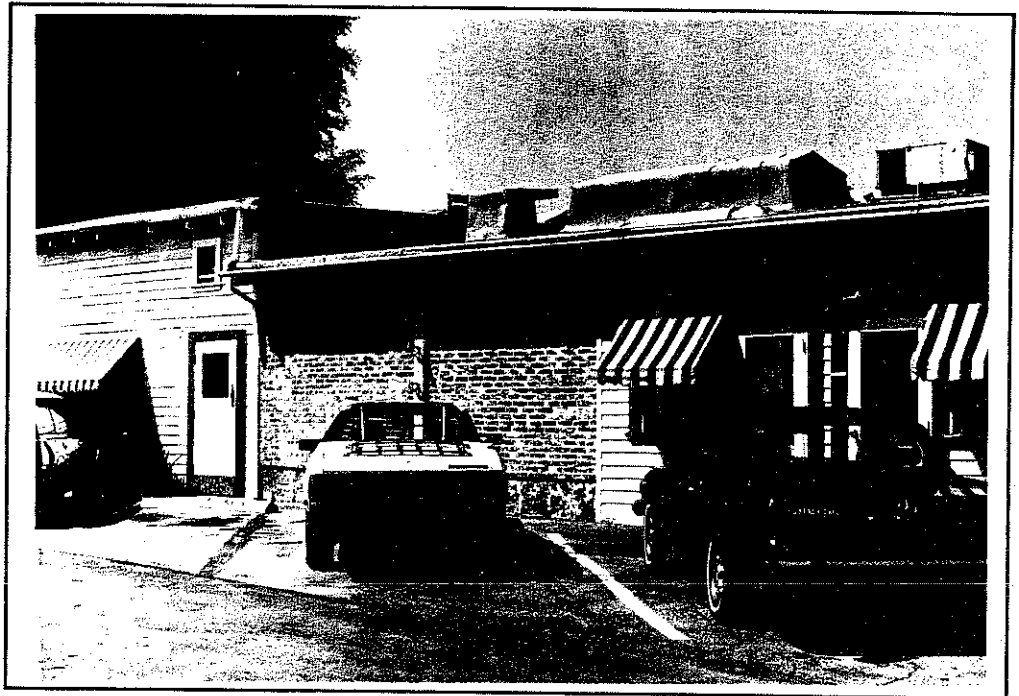
E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

This single-storied rectangular bungalow occupies the center of the lot behind the administration building. It is clad in lapped siding, with wide boards at the corners. The low-pitched gabled roof is edged in closely spaced carved exposed beam ends. Aluminum windows have replaced the original. All doors and windows are edged in wide board trim. One section of the building is clad in red brick and was used as a film vault. The entrance to the Ince Theatre is located in the east facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #G

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

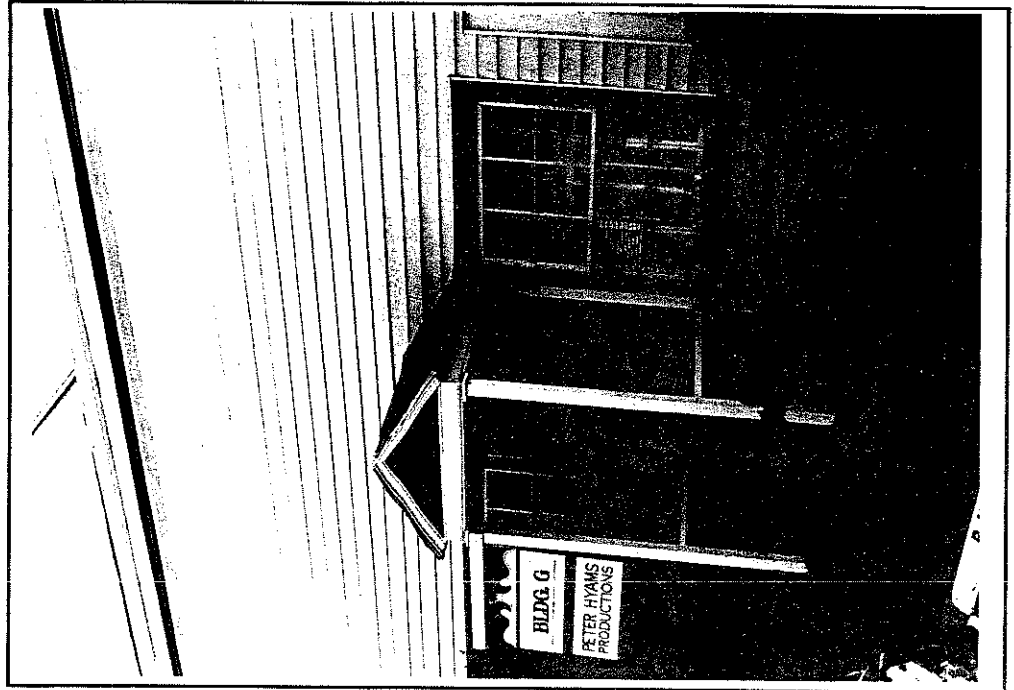
E C+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

This single-storied rectangular bungalow occupies the center of the lot behind the administration building. It is clad in lapped siding, with wide boards at the corners. The low-pitched gabled roof is edged in closely spaced carved exposed beam ends. Aluminum windows have replaced the original. All doors and windows are edged in wide board trim. One section of the building is clad in red brick and was used as a film vault. The entrance to the Ince Theatre is located in the east facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #H

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1925

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

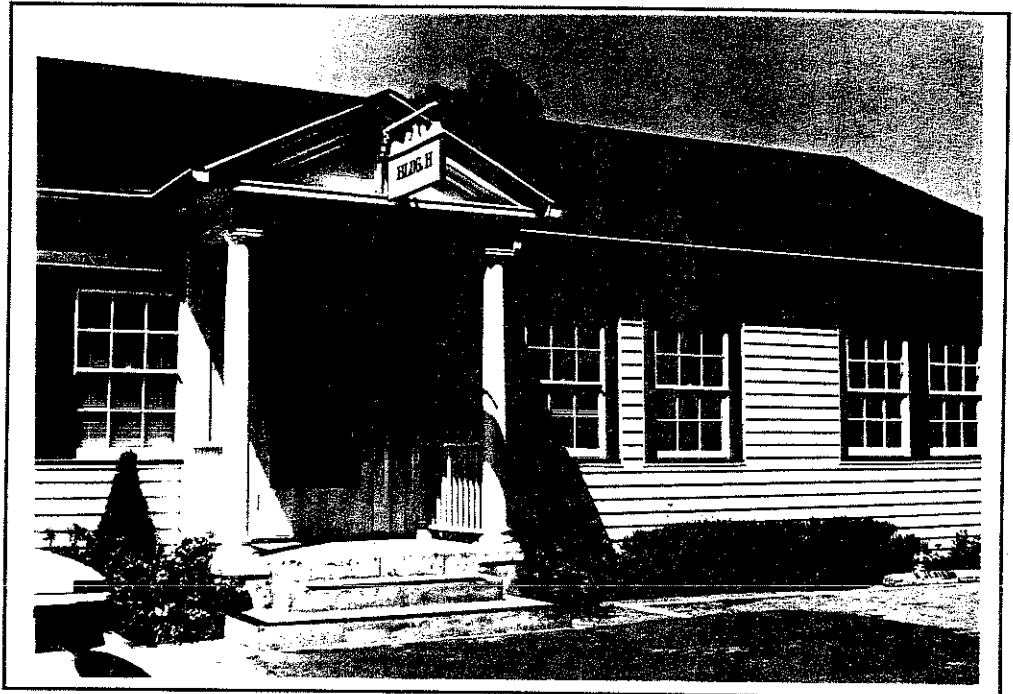
E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Colonial-style detailing of the single-storied bungalow shown here is more pronounced than on the other small buildings. The side-facing gabled roof is of medium pitch. Lapped siding, which matches the administration building, covers the exterior and is trimmed in corner boards. Pairs of 6-over-6 double-hung windows, edged with plain trim and narrow molding, are used throughout the building. Round Doric pillars support the pedimented gabled portico, and a plain railing runs along each side. The wood-paneled door is topped with a fine swagged Palladian transom. A smaller gabled portico is located on the west side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #1

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1925

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

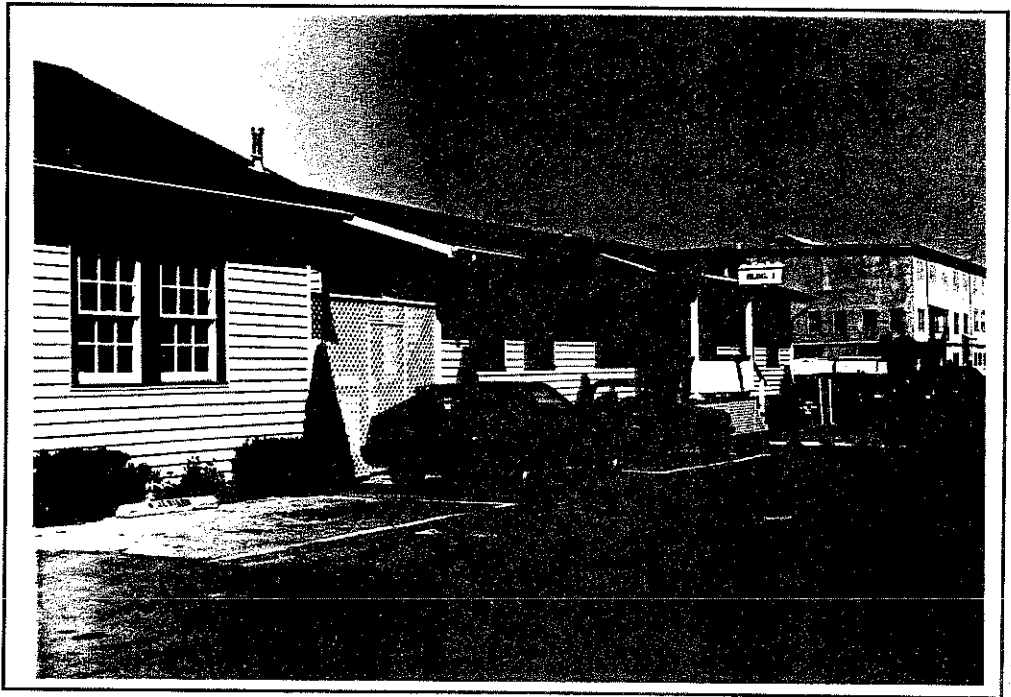
E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Another in the row of bungalows which runs perpendicular to the administration building, this single-storied lapped-sided structure is topped with a low-pitched side-facing gabled roof. Single and double 6-over-6 double-hung windows, surrounded by wide trim, occupy all facades. A shed-style porch, supported by round Doric columns, is placed slightly off center. The plain railing runs across the front of the porch, with the steps on the south side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #J

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1920

STYLE:

BOARD AND BATTEN

SOURCE: RATING:

E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Board-and-batten siding covers the exterior of the two-storied gable-roofed electric ship building, located on the eastern boundary of the studio lot. The front-facing gabled roof is topped by a narrow projecting gablet, which runs the length of the building. 3 large two-story-high wooden freight doors, trimmed with narrow boards, are located along the west side. The north side features a row of small aluminum windows. An addition on the south end is clad in plywood, trimmed in batts, and has a flat roof. It features one of the two-story-high wooden doors and rows of aluminum windows. A shed-style porch shelters the windows along the first floor at the south end.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #K

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW

SOURCE: RATING:

E C+

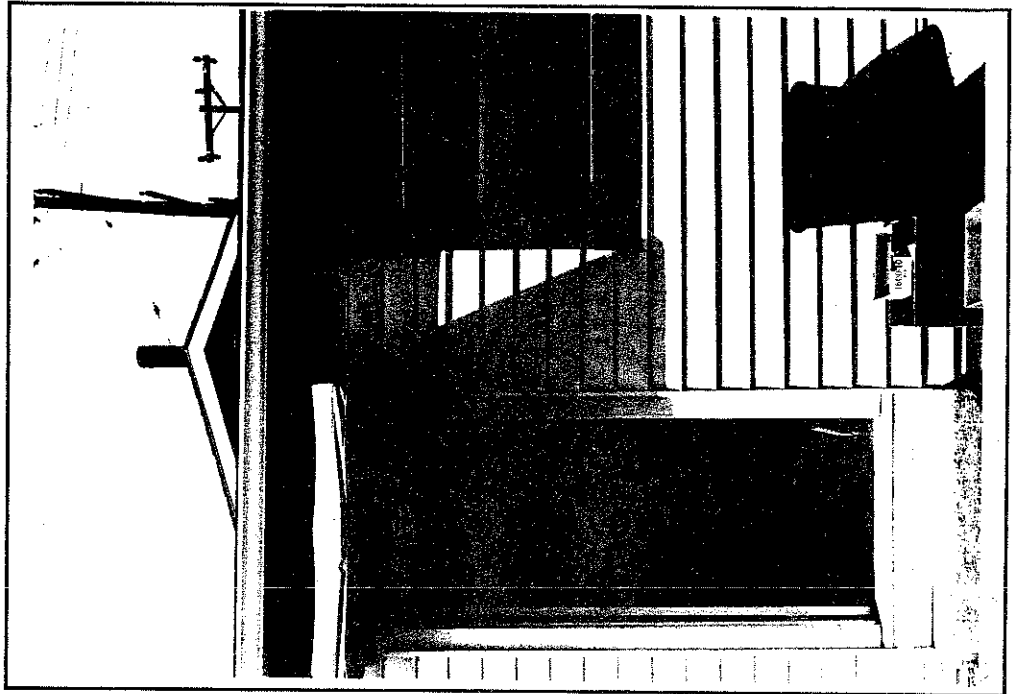
ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Horizontal lapped siding covers the exterior of the small rectangular bungalow located along the eastern border of the studio lot. A low-pitched gabled roof, with a shed-style enclosed porch on the front, tops the structure. Double-hung windows and a wooden door occupy the front facade. A small awning shelters the door.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #L

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1926

STYLE:

BRICK COMMERCIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

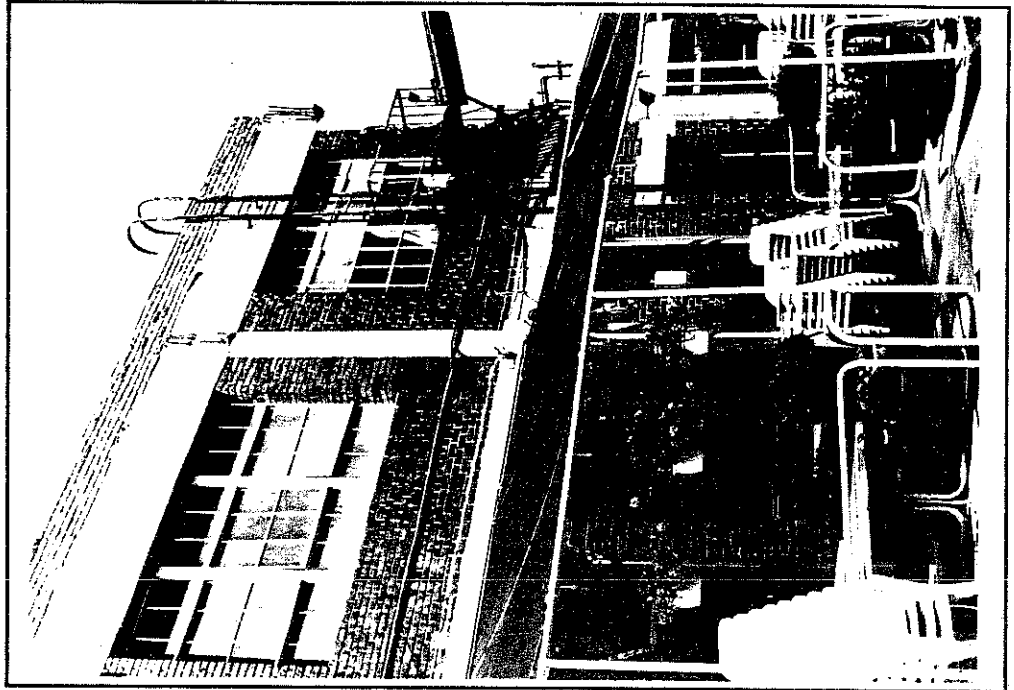
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Originally used as the nitrate film processing lab, this two-story brick building now serves as the commissary. Two stories high, with a flat roof and unbroken parapet, the structure is reinforced with visible concrete beams. Sets of large, recessed, multi-paned metal-framed windows occupy the second floor of the front (west) facade. Below, a metal and canvas awning shelters the dining terrace. New large recessed metal-framed windows are interspersed with recessed aluminum-framed doors, topped with transoms.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Constructed of brick because of the highly flammable characteristics of nitrate film, this building is very different in style and character from the frame Colonial Revival buildings that dominate the Culver City Studio lot. All of the studio's early films were processed here.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #M

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

BRICK COMMERCIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

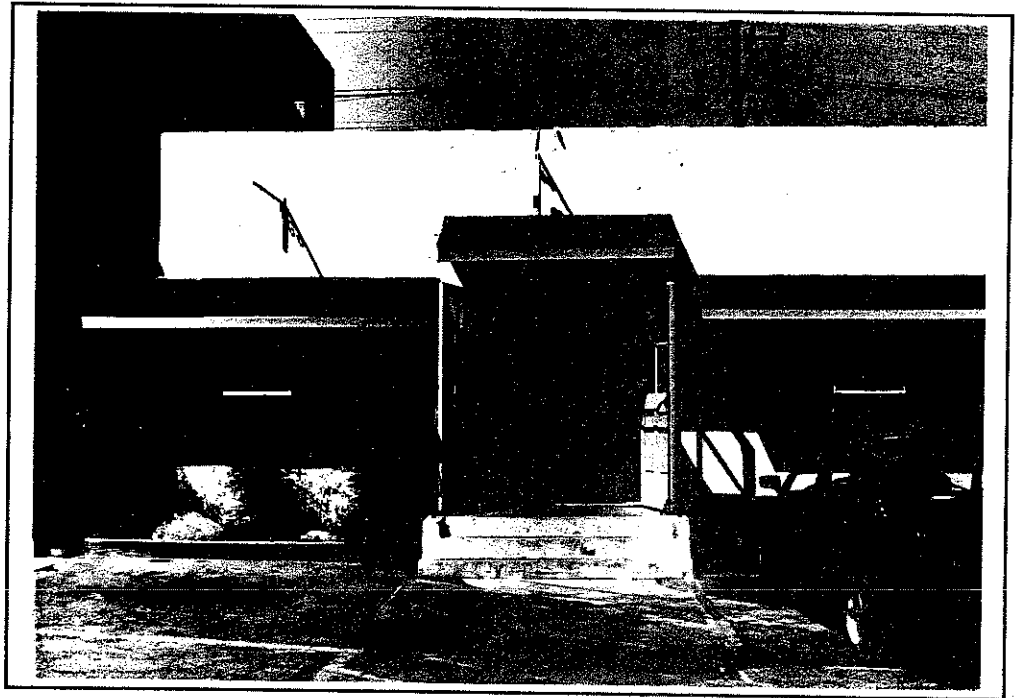
E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

A flat roof and stucco exterior are the predominate features of the single-storied building connected to the south side of the old nitrate film lab. Short shed-style roofs shelter the row of double-hung windows, used in sets of three, on each side of the portico. A pair of wooden doors, accented with 4-light windows, provide entrance.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #N

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1925

STYLE:

BRICK

SOURCE: RATING:

P

C+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

POWER HOUSE



DESCRIPTION:

This building is the power house for the Culver Studios, and is located in the midst of the large movie production lot. This structure is one of several pre-1937 buildings still surviving on the premises. Single-storied, with gables at each end, the power house is constructed of brick. Two large multi-paned windows on the east side reach from the ground to the roof and have metal frames. A freight door is located on the south end and smaller metal-framed windows are located on the west side. The power lines and insulators are located on the west side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Historical research related to the movie industry indicates that the studio site was built in 1918, borrowing an architectural design from Thomas Jefferson's Mt. Vernon. The lot in 1920 included two glass stages, a hospital, fire department and a back lot. The studio has been held by a number of owners, possibly the most famous being Cecil B. deMille who was known as the "leader among the Independents" [film producers] during his ownership (1925-28). Subsequent owners included Selznick, RKO, Desilu, Paramount, Laird, and (most currently) Culver Studios/GTG Entertainment. While this building alone does not appear to have architectural significance, it is part of a larger group of buildings which likely has historical significance.

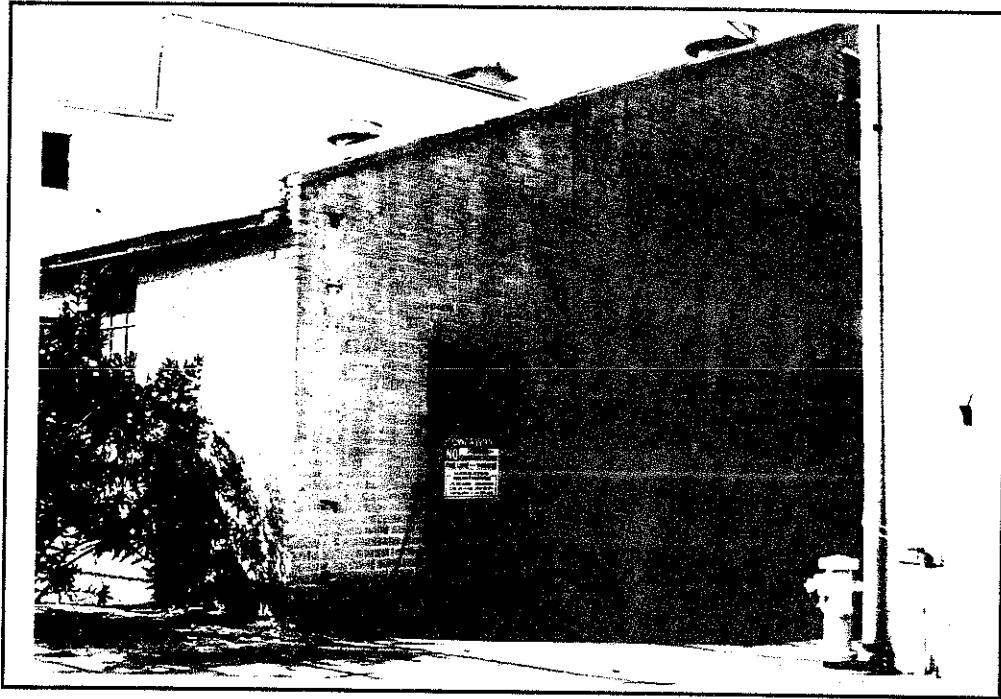
CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

second page of photos

9336

#N

WASHINGTON BLVD.



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #O

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1919

STYLE:

1920'S INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E C+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Three stories high, Building O is clad in stucco. The low-pitched front-facing gabled roof is accented with a plain frieze and molding. The row of windows along the third floor has been removed and stuccoed over. The double-hung windows on the second floor have been replaced with aluminum double-hung windows, but the original wide board trim, bordered with narrow molding, is still intact. Two sets of exterior stairs lead to the second floor. A narrow beltcourse separates the first and second floors. A variety of wood-trimmed windows and doors are used along the first floor west facade. A pair of large wooden freight doors open into the building from the west side. The east side is blank and faces Ince Blvd.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #R

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1925

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E B+

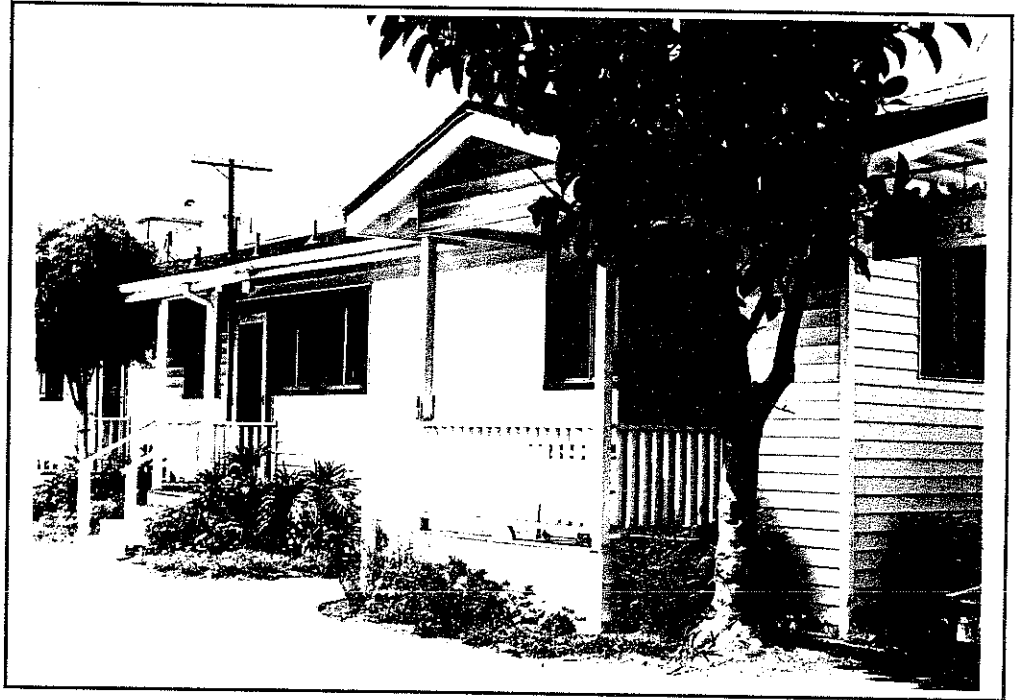
ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Although this building still retains much of its original character, it must be noted that it has been covered with aluminum siding and windows. The siding is lapped, with corner boards. the low-pitched side-facing gabled roof features hipped peaks at each end. Gabled porticos shelter two of the four entrances on the west side. Square posts and a plain railing, with closely-spaced balusters, are featured on the porch. Other porches are similar, with small shed-style roofs. Aluminum windows, edged in green plastic replace the original.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This bungalow's plain appearance and major alterations are offset by the fact that Alfred Hitchcock used it for his office/study for several years.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #S

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1935

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

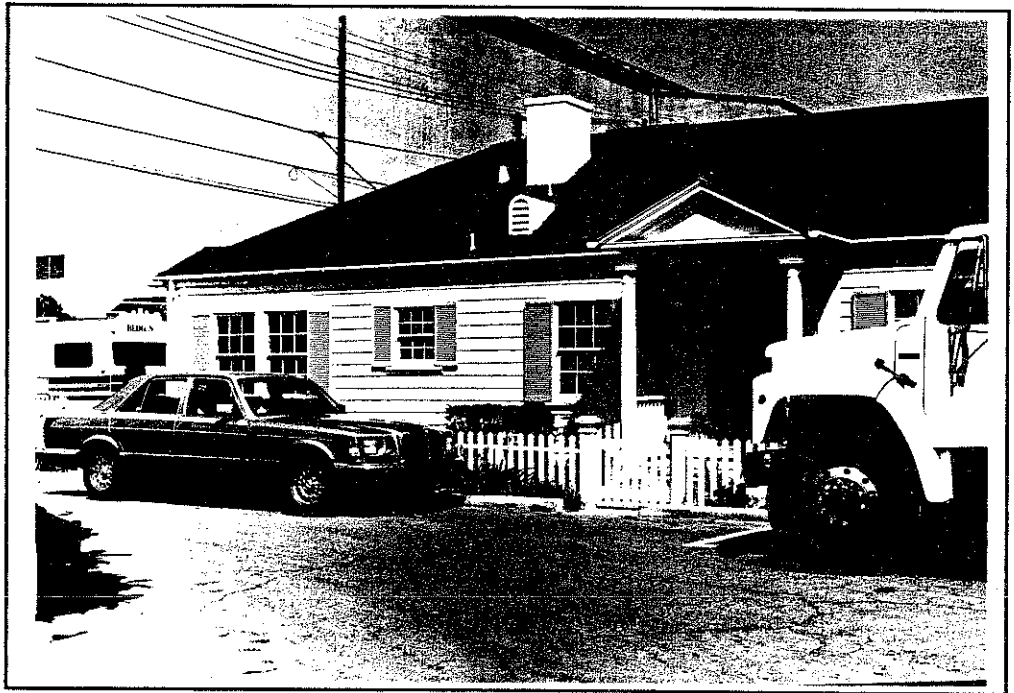
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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 for Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh for the classic movie "Gone With the Wind" in the early 1930's. It is now occupied by Blake Edwards Productions, an internationally-known film production firm.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #T

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1938

STYLE:

1920'S COLONIAL REVIVAL

SOURCE: RATING:

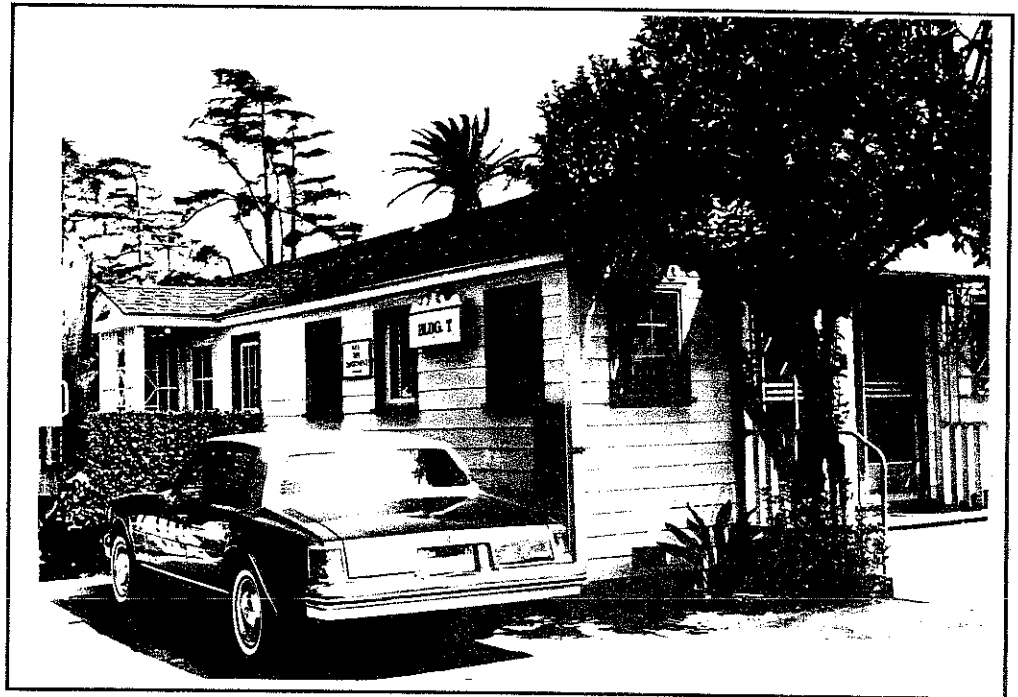
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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:

Built for Olivia DeHavaland in 1938, this building retains almost all of its original integrity.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #U

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1924

STYLE:

STREAMLINE MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:

E A+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**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 bungalow was used by Orson Wells for his office/study area in the 1930's. Because it was used by a person who played an important role in the history of our nation, it is given an A rating.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #V
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1924

STYLE:

PRAIRIE SCHOOL

SOURCE: RATING:

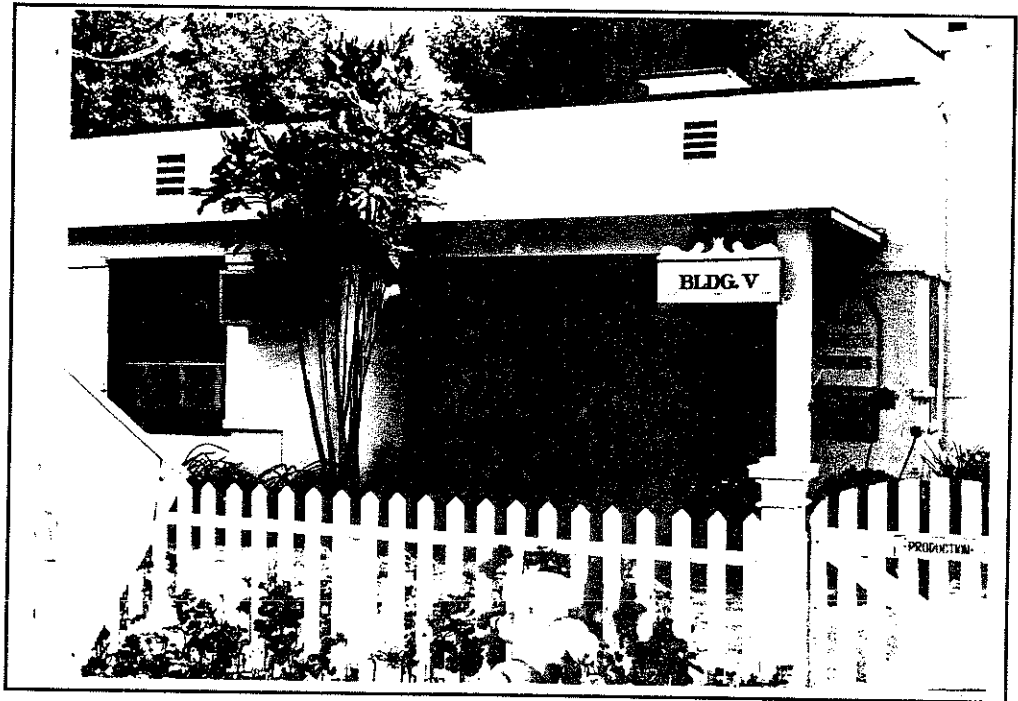
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**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:

Joseph Kennedy built this building for Gloria Swanson. It is now occupied by Blake Edwards Productions.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #X

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

FILM VAULTS

SOURCE: RATING:

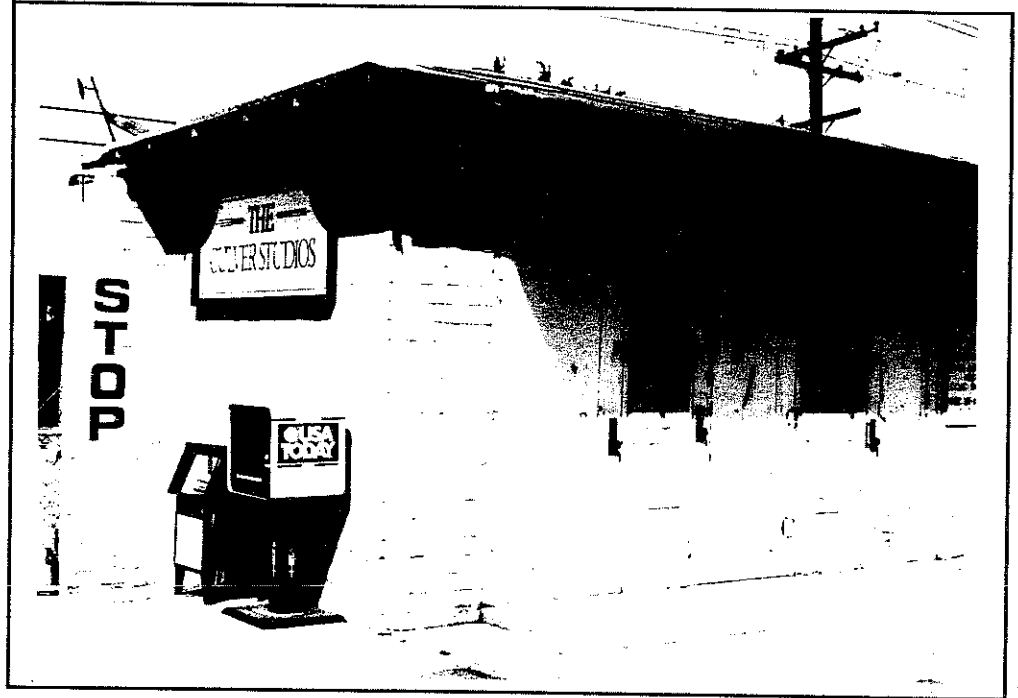
E C+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Long and narrow, with its back on Ince Blvd., the film vaults are constructed of brick, topped with a very low-pitched hipped roof. Six single-paneled doors, edged in egg-and-dart molding, are spaced along the west facade.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #Y

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

SCENE DOCK

SOURCE: RATING:

E C+

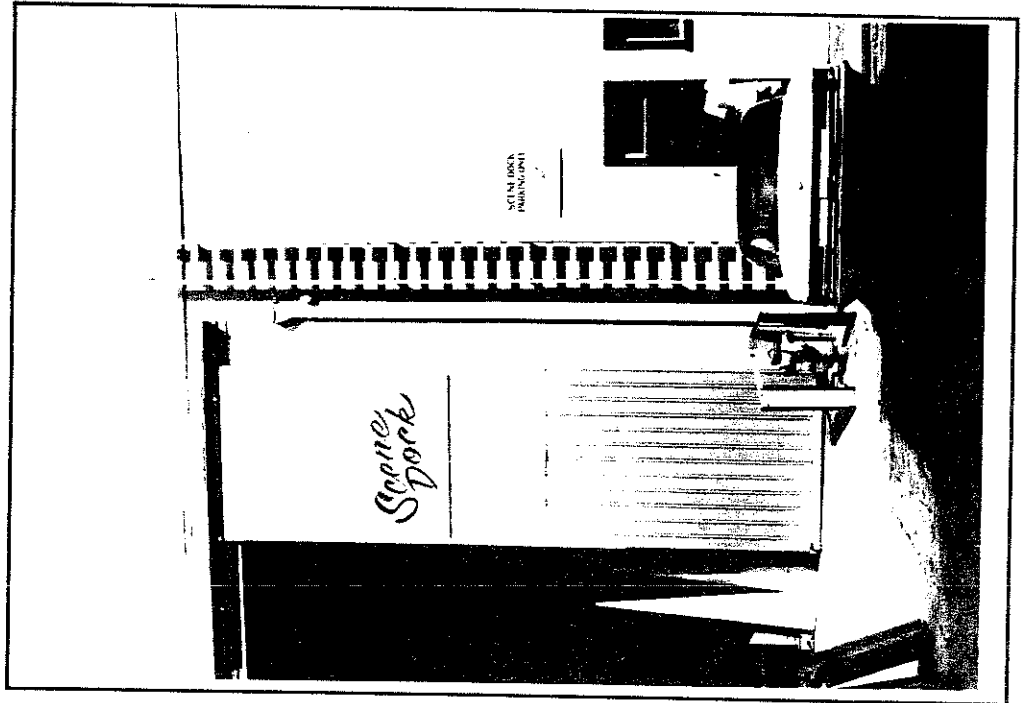
ALTERATIONS:

S

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

A flat roof and stucco cladding cover the exterior of the two-story- high scene dock. Three sets of metal-clad doors are located on the north side. Two small aluminum windows, a door, and a transom indicate the location of the office.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 #Z

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

SCENE DOCK

SOURCE: RATING:

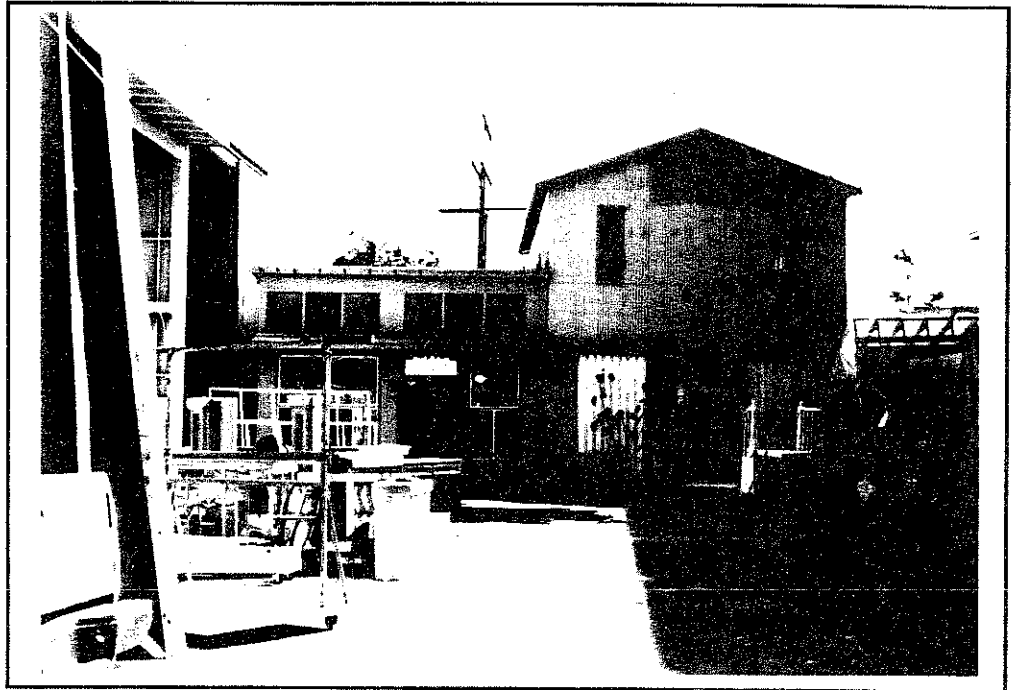
E C+

ALTERATIONS:

S

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Corrugated metal covers the 2-story portion of the scene dock office at the back of the lot. Board-and-batten covers the southernmost single-story section. Two tall, narrow multi-paned windows are located on the second floor and metal-clad freight doors are used on the first floor. A row of wood-framed windows forms a transom above the shed-style porch roof. New aluminum windows and french doors are in place at the first floor level.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-1

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1919

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E

A+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

The original sound stage, built in 1919, is placed on a diagonal. The first floor is clad in board-and-batten siding and carries out the Colonial theme. The upper two-thirds is clad in large wood panels, with wide trim boards in between. A low-pitched gabled roof, running north to south, caps the structure. The original multi-paned glass gable is visible on the north end. Multi-paned double-hung windows, which match those in the administration building, are used along the first floor facade. The doors feature multi-paned windows in the center and are topped with multi-paned transoms. Wood porches with plain balustrades border the porches. All openings are neatly trimmed in dark green boards.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-2,3

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1926

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E

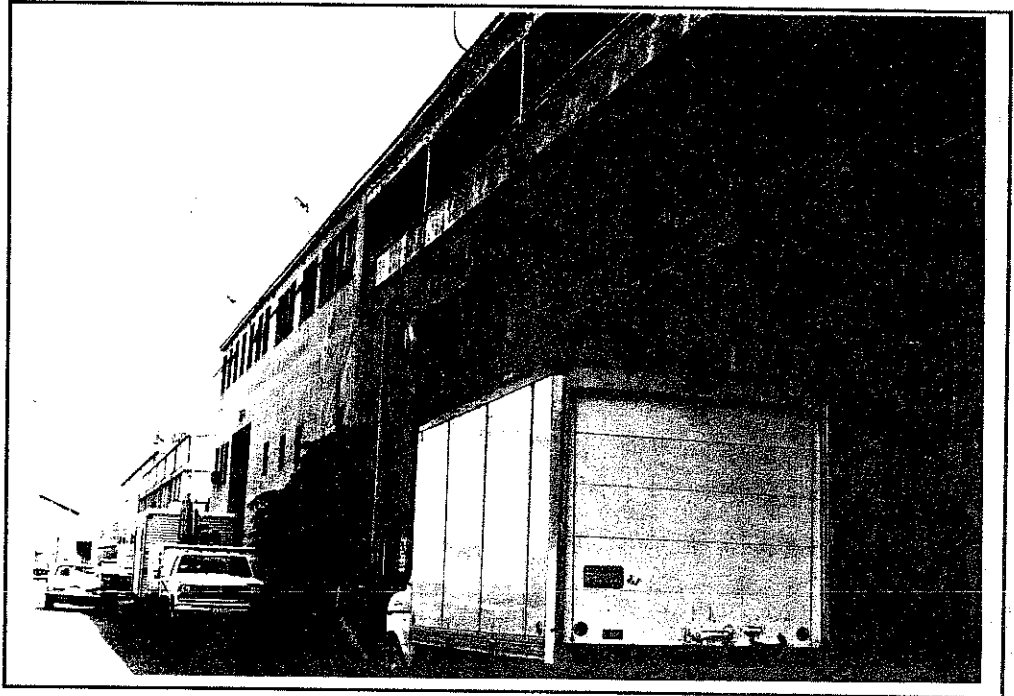
A+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Wood panels cover the exterior of the three story high stages located in the center of the lot. The roof is flat. A row of multi-paned metal windows and a recessed porch, supported by wood posts, run along the third floor. Wooden stairs lead to the second floor at the south end and metal stairs lead to the north end of the third floor porch. Recessed 4-over-4 windows run occupy the first and second floor at the north end. The large wooden doors are left open most of the time and ramps allow vehicles to drive into the lobby.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-4

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1926

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E

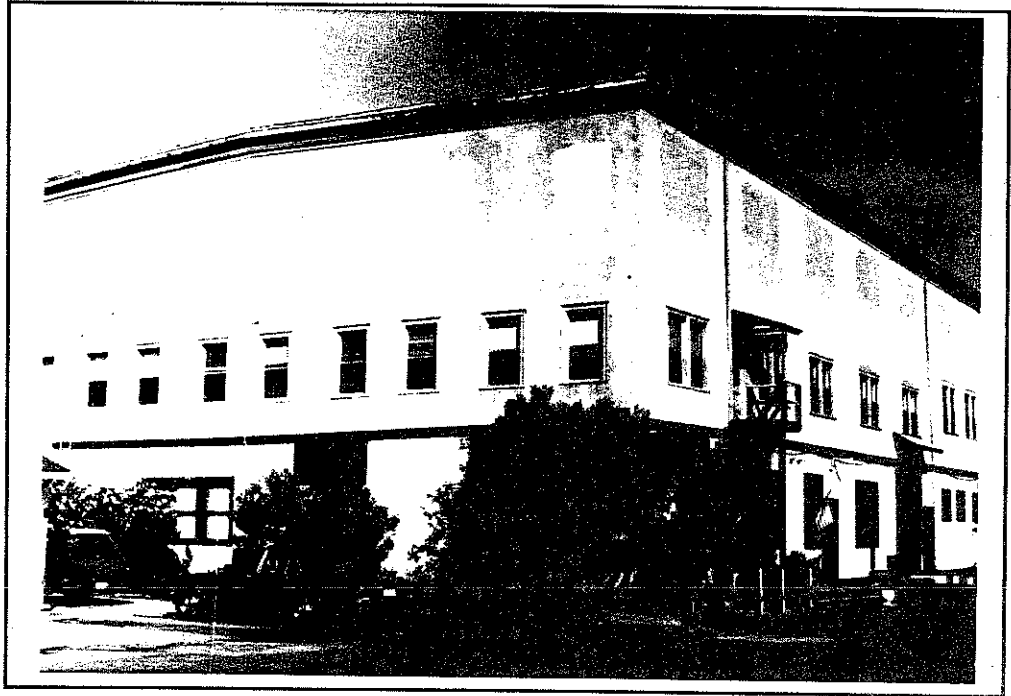
A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Wood panels cover the exterior of the three story high stages located in the center of the lot. The roof is flat. A row of multi-paned metal windows and a recessed porch, supported by wood posts, run along the third floor. Wooden stairs lead to the second floor at the south end and metal stairs lead to the north end of the third floor porch. Recessed 4-over-4 windows run occupy the first and second floor at the north end. The large wooden doors are left open most of the time and ramps allow vehicles to drive into the lobby.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-7,8

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1928

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

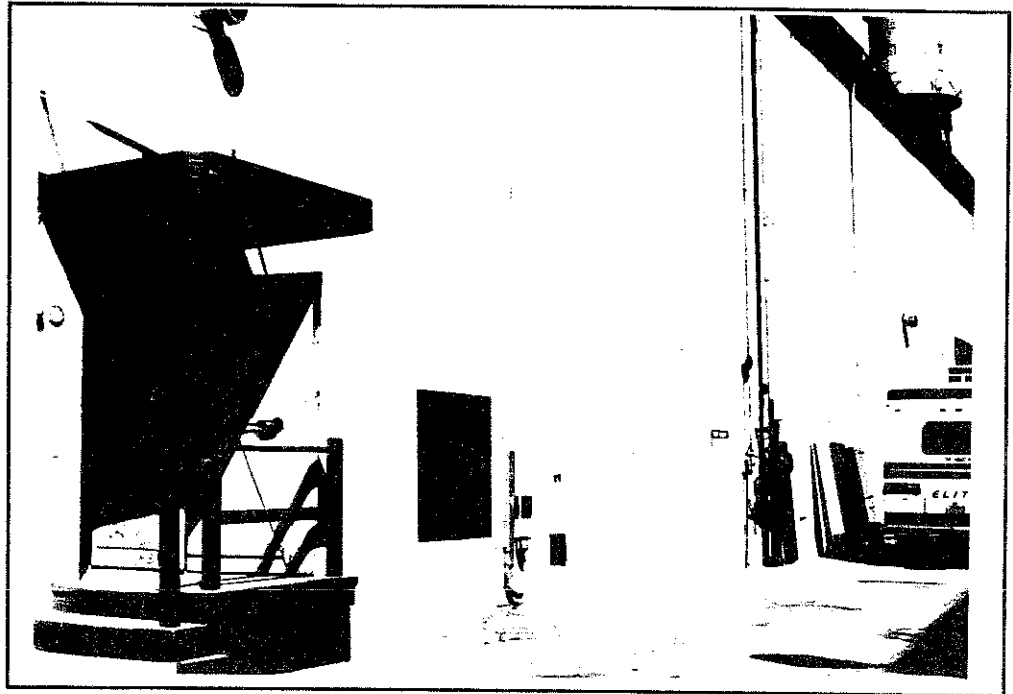
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

M

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Stucco covers the exterior of this 3-story-high rectangular building. A low-pitched Dutch Colonial-style roof forms wide gables at the front and back. There are no windows in the building. Large wooden freight doors, sometimes clad in diagonal car siding, lead to the interior. 3 flat metal Moderne-style canopies, interspersed along the west side, shelter the walk-in doors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9336 S-9
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1928

STYLE:
INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: **RATING:**
E A+

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
CULVER STUDIO



DESCRIPTION:

Stucco covers the exterior of this 3-story-high rectangular building. A low-pitched Dutch Colonial-style roof forms wide gables at the front and back. There are no windows in the building. Large wooden freight doors, sometimes clad in diagonal car siding, lead to the interior. 3 flat metal Moderne-style canopies, interspersed along the west side, shelter the walk-in doors.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-10

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1935

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E

B+

ALTERATIONS:

S

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Stage 10 is located in the southeast corner of the lot. Clad in stucco, it is capped with a side-facing gabled roof. There are no windows in the main section. A pair of large wooden doors lead to the interior and are sheltered by a shed-style porch. An addition to the north of the main entrance has aluminum windows and paneled wood doors, sheltered by shed style porticos.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-11 & 12
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

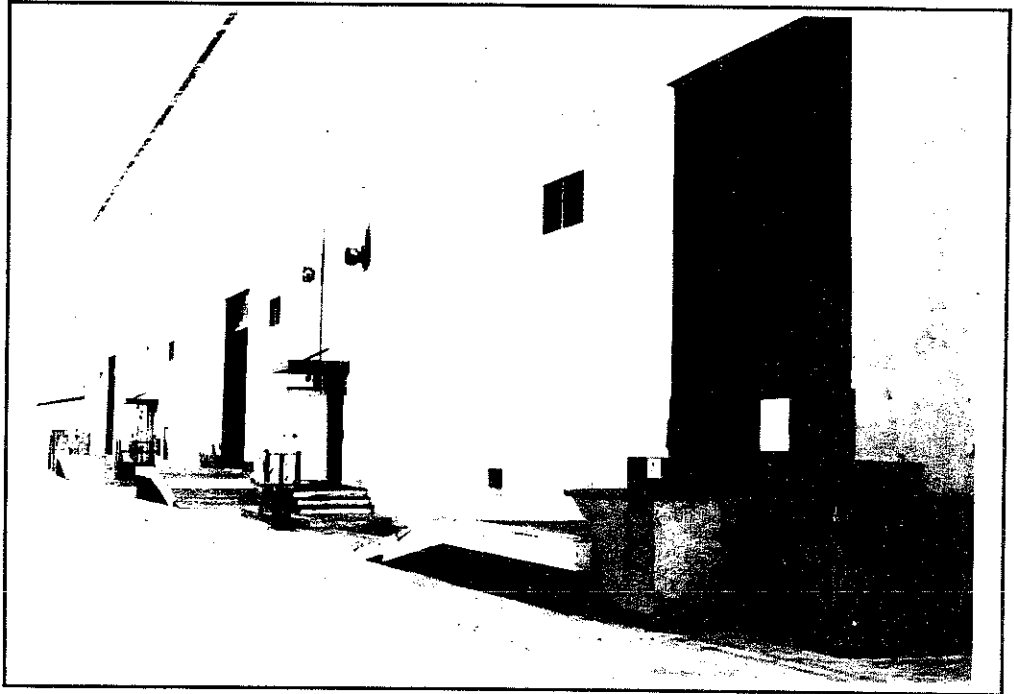
E A+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

This large stucco-clad building has no decoration and is topped with a low-pitched gabled roof with narrow overhangs. Three metal-clad freight doors lead to the interior from the east side. Two metal-striped canopys shelter the two walk-in doors. A single story shed style additon runs along the west side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9336 S-14,15,16

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1930

STYLE:

INDUSTRIAL

SOURCE: RATING:

E A+

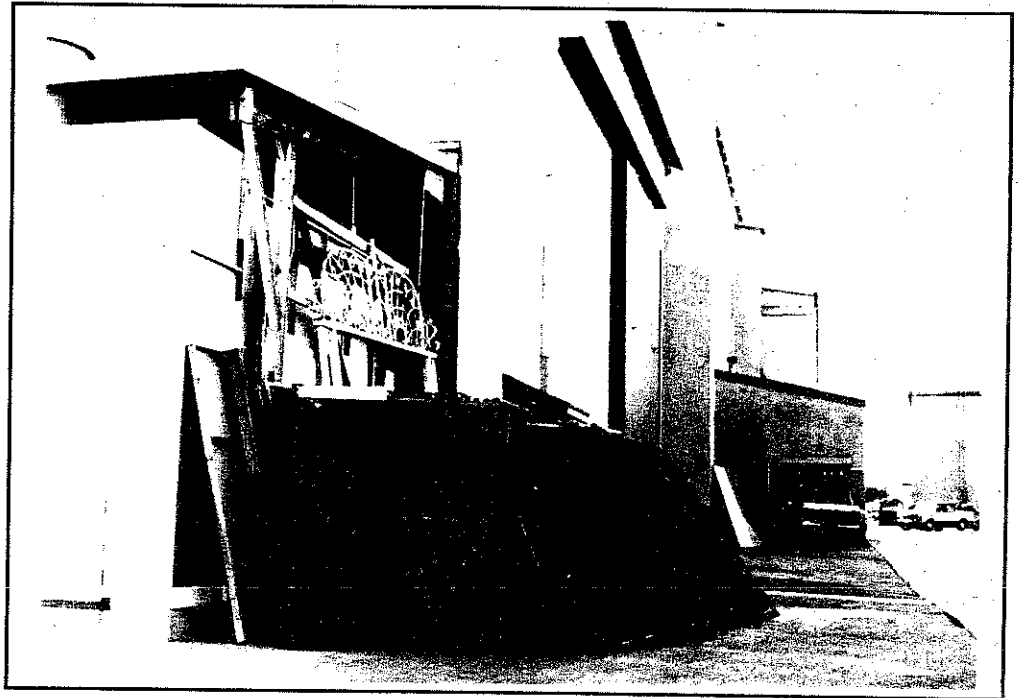
ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:

CULVER STUDIO

**DESCRIPTION:**

Stages 14,15, and 16 were built in 1939 and are an additon to stages 11 and 12. They are two stories high and clad in stucco. Large one and one-half high freight doors lead to the sound stages. A single story style lean-to has been added to the side.

SIGNIFICANCE:

See District Introduction for General Significance.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9400 -10
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1925

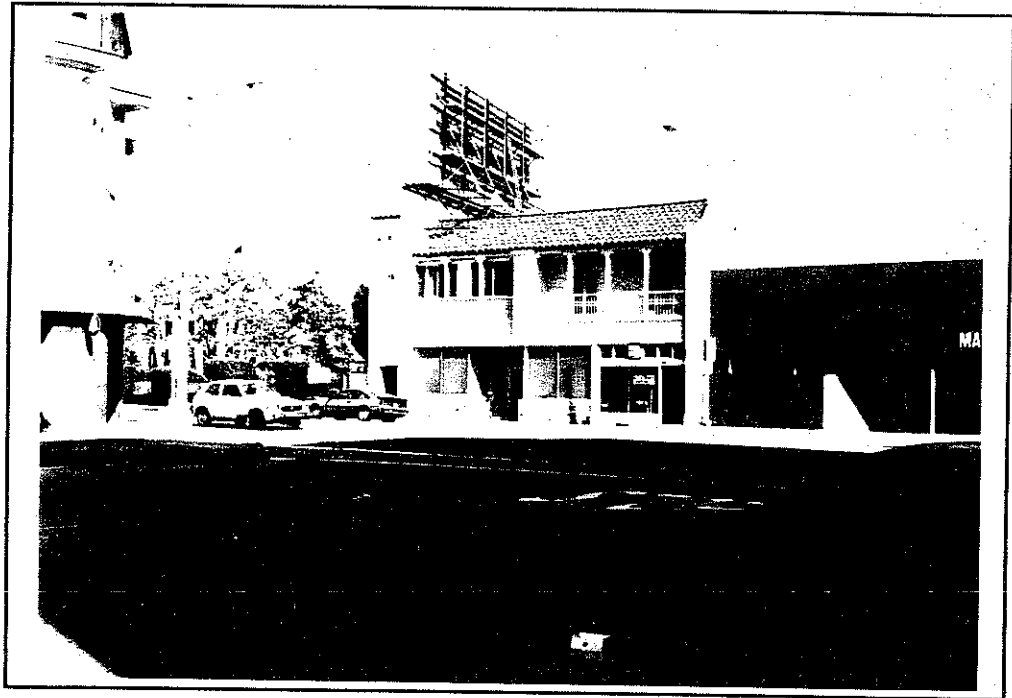
STYLE:
SPANISH COLONIAL COMM.

SOURCE: RATING:
E B-

ALTERATIONS:
M

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:



DESCRIPTION:

Six stories high and shaped like a wedge, the Neo-classical Culver City Hotel is noteworthy not only for its fine architectural character, but also for its significance in the history of Culver City. Closely-spaced carved brackets decorate the wide cornice at the top of the building. The sixth floor, with rows of 6-over-6 recessed double-hung windows, is trimmed in light-colored terra cotta tiles. A matching beltcourse runs below the windows, forming a wide light colored band that is attached visually to the fifth floor with decorative tile stems. The second through fifth floors are clad in dark tan and gold brick and feature recessed 6-over-6 windows on all facades. The second floor windows are edged with wide terra cotta surrounds. Simulated terra cotta quoins form a light-colored vertical band that runs from the second floor to the fifth at each corner. The first floor windows and doors are capped with graceful arched transoms, topped with keystones. The windows are recessed and multi-paned. The building retains almost all of its original architectural integrity.

Harry H. Culver built this hotel in 1923-24 (building permit 11/24/23), when Culver City was in its heyday as the headquarters for some of the world's most prominent movie studios. The Winter Construction Company was the contractor. Located only a few blocks from three major studios, the hotel was built to provide accommodations for visiting movie stars, directors, and others connected with the movie industry. Harry Culver owned the building for several years, but by the 1940's Edna and Red Skelton had purchased the building. In 1947 they took out a permit to install a neon-lighted sign for the top of the building which read "Culver City". They owned the building into the 1950's. John Wayne was another well-known owner. The hotel appears in several silent movies, notably those featuring Laurel and Hardy. In the early 1930's the dwarfs who played the "Little People" in the Wizard of Oz were headquartered here. The book and 1979 film "Under the Rainbow" told of the adventures of the small actors and actresses, using replicas of the hotel's interiors. The building is still seen in on some of the television programs filmed at the nearby studios, including "Dallas" and "Highway to Heaven".

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building appears to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, on the basis of its architecture, its relationship to persons significant to world history, and the part it has played in the social and economic patterns of Culver City and Los Angeles County.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

second page of photos

9400

-10

WASHINGTON BLVD.



CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9540

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1928

STYLE:

NEO-CLASSICAL COMMERCIAL

SOURCE:

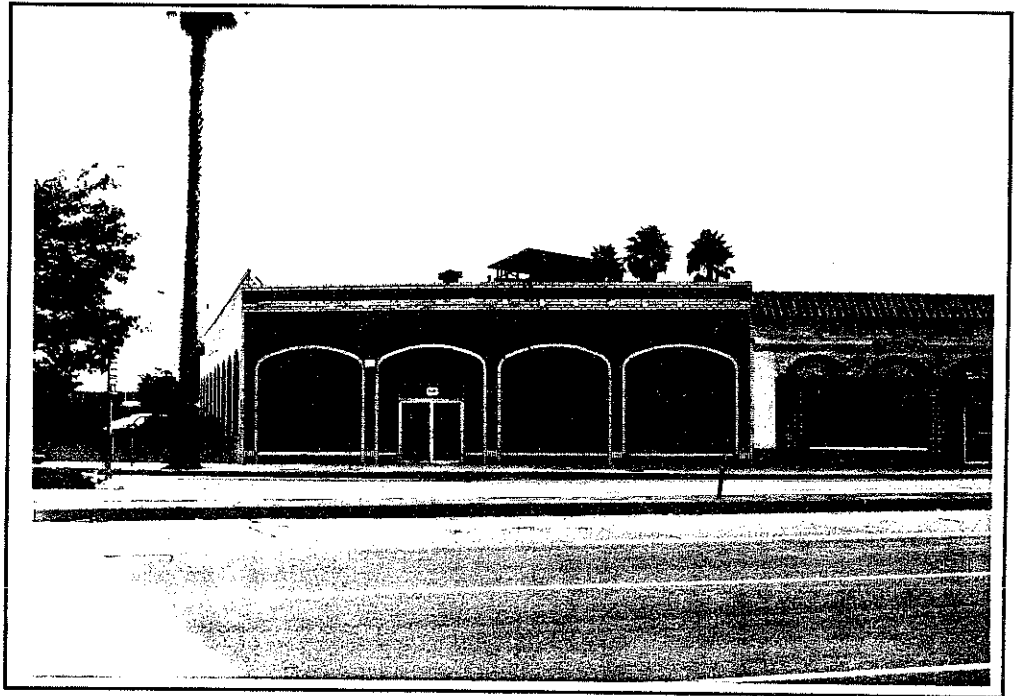
E

RATING:

B-

ALTERATIONS:

F-'66

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

Four large matching arched openings form a row across the front facade of this single-storied commercial building. Each arch, as well as the cornice, is edged in cream-colored brick and contrasts with the dark red brick of the body. Plate glass windows, with multi-paned transoms above, fill two bays, while the metal-framed front entrance doors and plywood face the other two.

Since the survey was completed, there has been added a roof dish and screen.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This Neo-classical brick commercial building has had a variety of uses through the years. In the 1930's it was the Noren-Wuster Furniture Co., a use that continued through the 50's. During the 60's World Wide Antiques was located in the building. Westwood One used it for sound rooms recently. It is one of the few brick commercial buildings in the downtown area that has not been substantially altered.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9543

WASHINGTON

DATE:

1925

STYLE:

NEO-CLASSICAL

SOURCE: RATING:

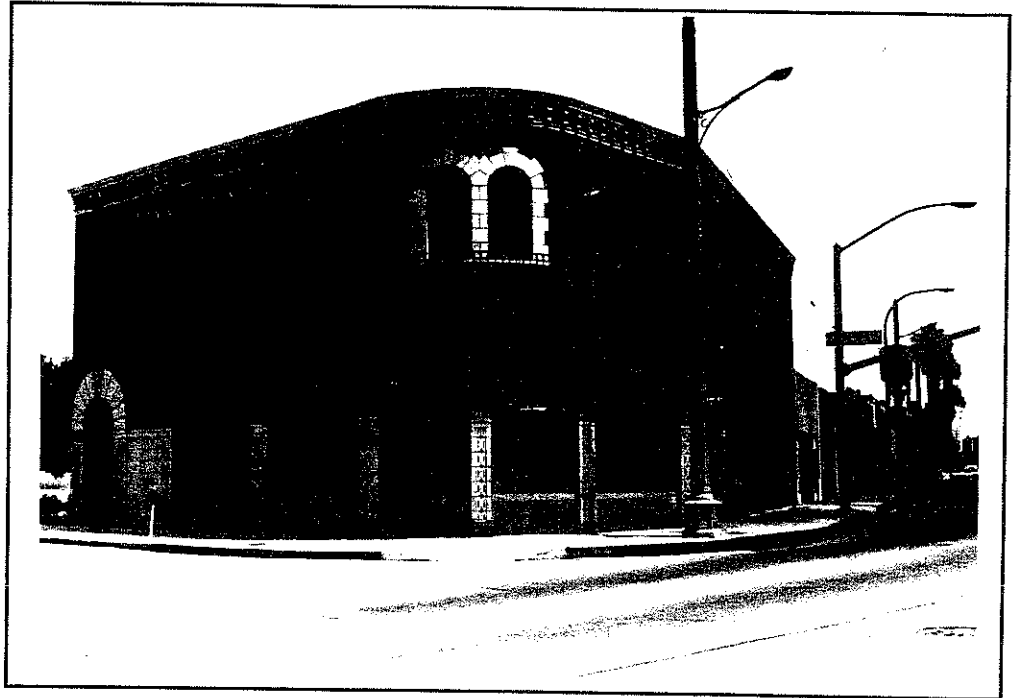
E B+

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

HULL BUILDING

**DESCRIPTION:**

Shaped like a wedge, the Hull Building is constructed of tan and rose-colored brick. Two-stories high, the building is topped with a flat roof with a heavy cast terra cotta tile cornice embellished with closely-spaced brackets and Greek floral tiles. The rows of recessed windows on the second floor have been replaced with single-paned metal-framed windows. Arches outlined in three rows of brick form a pattern along the Culver Blvd. and Watseka Avenue facades. Terra cotta pilasters, with plain capitals and a cast decoration in the center, support the arches. The main entrance on Culver has been remodeled and the deeply-recessed metal entrance doors and wall of glass brick are fairly new. The former entrance to the second floor offices, on the Watseka Ave. facade, was located in the last arch. It features a terra cotta surround and an arched window, pierced with a large keystone. This and all other arched openings, except for the Culver Blvd. entrance, now contain metal-clad windows with grey and green tile on the bulkheads. The building is in good condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

A plaque, placed by the Huntington Beach Historical Society, says:"
The Hull Building was built in 1925. Dr. Foster Hull, having the interest of his profession at heart, built the most modern medical offices and hospital for that time. Early in the 30's, Louis Freeman acquired the building which served Culver City in various uses and to this date retained its original character ". During the 1930's, the Eastham Sales Corporation, one of Culver City's most prominent insurance, real estate and investment firms. Earle S. Eastham was the president and Ernest T. Mattox the secretary-treasurer. The Hull Building is certainly significant to Culver City, and deserves local recognition. National Register eligibility might not be a reality, because of the new windows and bulkheads.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:
9720 -30
WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:
1925

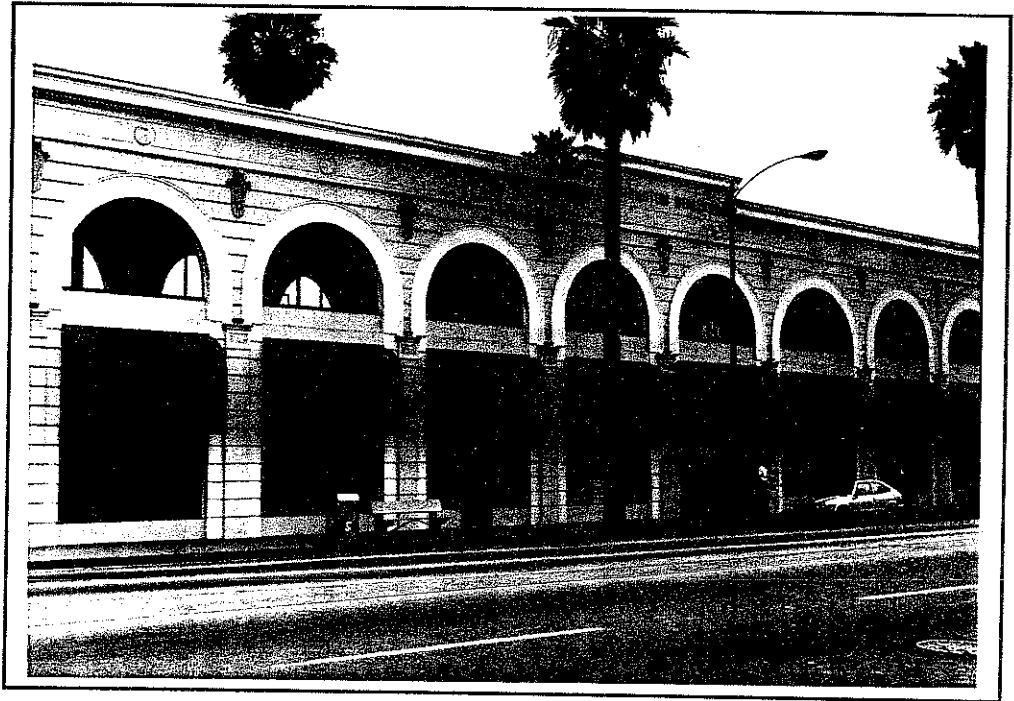
STYLE:
NEO-CLASSICAL

SOURCE: RATING:
E A

ALTERATIONS:
F

RESIDENCE:

COMMENT:
WASH. BLDG.



DESCRIPTION:

Triangular in shape, the two-story Neo-Classical Washington Building is constructed of cast concrete shaped to resemble large granite blocks with recessed mortar between. The flat roof is emphasized by a heavy cornice trimmed in dentil work along the bottom. Decorative pediments are centered above the cornice on the north and south sides. Rows of prominent arched windows run along the north and south sides, with a matching window located in the diagonally-placed east entrance. Medallions featuring portraits of George Washington accent the frieze below the cornice at 15 foot intervals. Shield-style cartouches are featured between each set of first floor arched transoms. Wide trim, painted white to emphasize the arched shape of the transoms above the first floor windows, is edged in molding. Capitals, accented with rectangular sunbursts at the top, top the projecting pilasters between the windows. The frames of the windows and doors are new painted metal. The original entrance to the second floor offices is on the Washington Blvd. side. The original black-and-white floor and stairway exist in this entrance. The building has recently received a new coat of peach paint, with white trim and darker peach accents. It is in excellent condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

So many of Southern California's Beaux Arts buildings have been destroyed that those remaining have become valuable and architecturally significant assets to each local community. The building provided an important function as an office building in Culver City. In the 1930's some of the tenants were: American National Insurance Co; V. A. Berry, a lawyer; Dr. J. T. Connelly, a dentist; Mrs. E. P. Lacy, Christian Science practitioner; Mrs. G. P. Gorham, artist bureau; Chester Graves, photographer; Mrs. Effie Grisby, beauty shop; and G. M. Suffren, jeweler. Although it appears eligible for the National Register, the new metal windows may affect its eligibility.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9814

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1928

STYLE:

TUDOR REVIVAL

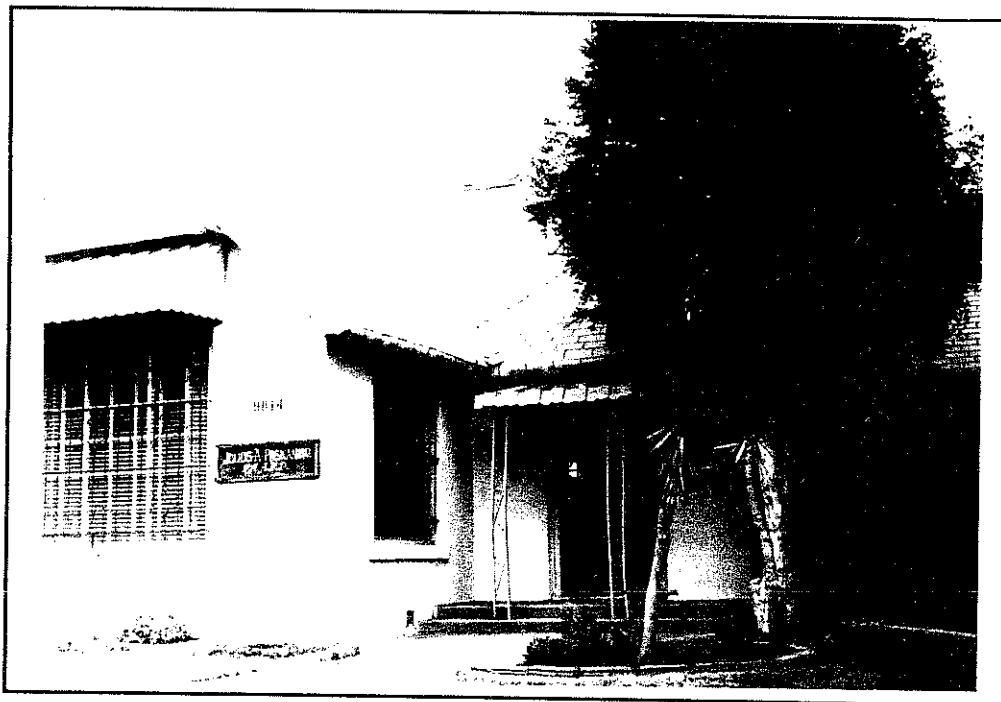
SOURCE: RATING:

E

B-

ALTERATIONS:

F

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

A rolled roof, with a high hipped roof in the center and several smaller roofs forming planes on the first floor, caps this stucco-clad Tudor Revival building. A single-story wing, facing front, features a hip at the top of the gable. A large recessed multi-paned window is centered in the front facade. All other windows are recessed and multi-paned, with projecting stucco-clad sills. A large two-story stucco-clad chimney is located on the east side. The main entrance is located in the ell formed by the front wing. It was an open porch, but an aluminum awning has been added to shelter the front door.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This is a good example of a Tudor Revival house because of its many- planed rolled roof. It served as the office and home of Dr. George Hays, and his wife, Edith, in the 1930's. It is a doctor's office at the present time.

CULVER CITY HISTORICAL SURVEY

ADDRESS:

9820

WASHINGTON BLVD.

DATE:

1945

STYLE:

MODERNE

SOURCE: RATING:

P

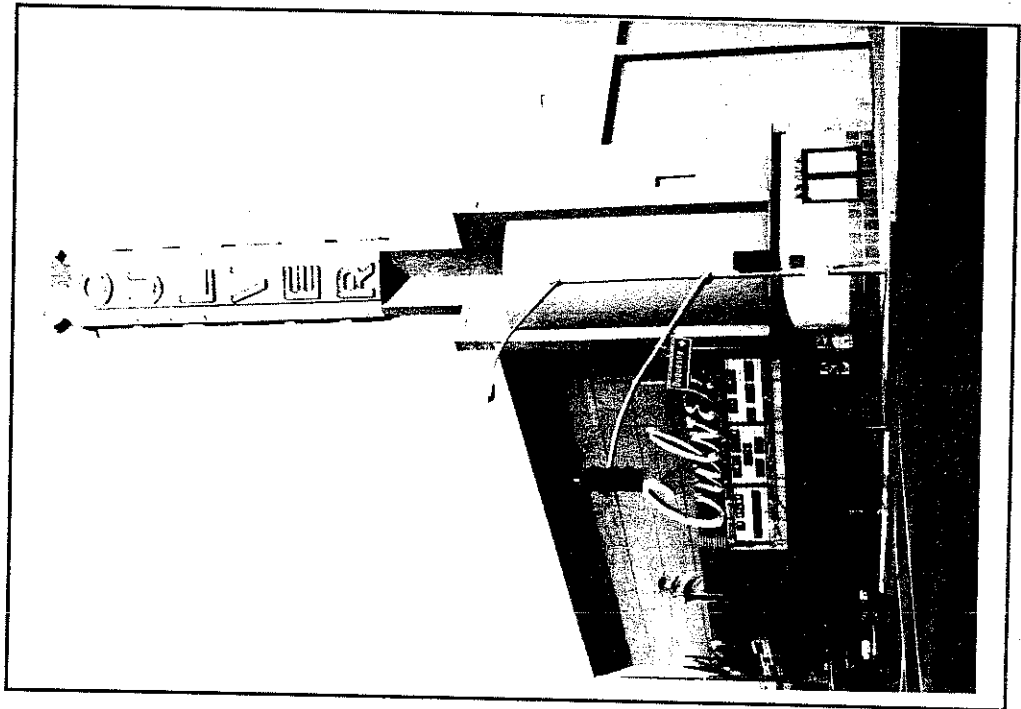
B

ALTERATIONS:

F

RESIDENCE:**COMMENT:**

CULVER THEATRE

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Culver Theatre was designed in the late Moderne style, having some characteristics of the 1940's. The building is clad in stucco, with a flat roof and an unbroken parapet with a ledge across the top. The northwest corner is rounded and provides the base for a tall triangular tower with the word "Culver" on each side. A large finial, in the shape of a crown tops the tower. The marquee appears to be original and is centered with a Moderne crest. The first floor of the front and part of the west facade are clad in large cream-colored tiles, with a band of rust tiles below. The original ticket booth, crowned with Moderne swirls, is still in use. The floor of the entry is a remarkable pattern of cream, peach, green, lavender, rust, and gold terrazzo and is a work of art. The ceiling above depicts a leafy pattern in neon lights. The same pattern is repeated on the ceiling of the lobby, in gold. The drinking fountain surround, on the east side of the lobby, is silver colored, with swirls surrounding the edges.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Even though the Culver Theatre was built after 1940 (1945 is the permit date), it retains some architectural and artistic details representative of the late Moderne period which are not found anywhere else in Culver City.