

## HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 0213-034

HABS \_\_\_\_\_ HAER \_\_\_\_\_ NR 1 SHL \_\_\_\_\_ Loc \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM: A 11-369320-372420 B \_\_\_\_\_  
C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

### IDENTIFICATION

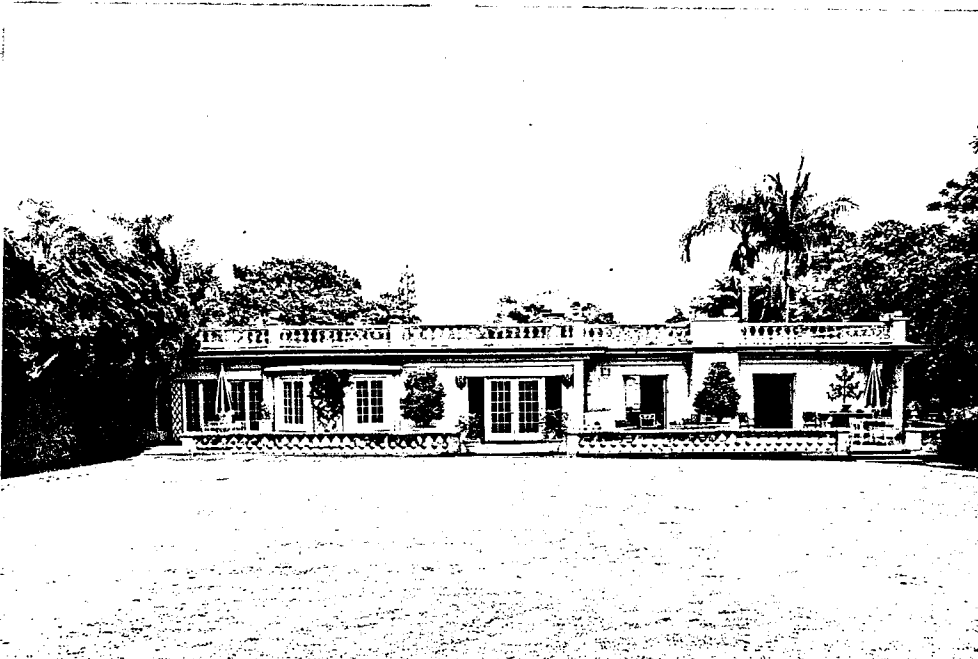
1. Common name: Robinson Gardens
2. Historic name: Robinson: Harry & Virginia Estate
3. Street or rural address: 1008 Elden Way  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210 County Los Angeles
4. Parcel number: ---
5. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Ownership is: Public \_\_\_\_\_ Private \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present Use: Park Original use: Residential

### DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Mediterranean
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

The Robinson House is a one story, Mediterranean "bungalow" with a partial subterranean lower level. Sheathed in stucco, the house is crowned by a flat roof edged by a balustraded parapet. Pedestals carrying urns punctuate the balustrade. Plain pilasters divide the public (south) facade into bays. Most bays contained paired, multi-pane casement, flanked by shutters, which open onto small, corbelled, balustraded balconies. Offset to the east, the entry is marked by a portico created by Tuscan columns which carry an extension of the roof. An open terrace to the north of the portico is defined by another balustrade. Fronted by a lawn enclosed by hedges, the house is approached by a broad cement path studded with urns and benches.

Another terrace is located at the rear of the house, overlooking a deep lawn which leads to a pool and a pavilion. Added in 1925, the pavilion is Italian Renaissance Revival in style. Three arches, carried on Tuscan columns, are centered on the facade and entirely glazed. Sgraffito embellishes the spandrels. A (see continuat



Construction date: 1908-11  
Estimated \_\_\_\_\_ Factual X

Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown

Builder \_\_\_\_\_  
Unknown

1. Approx. property size (in feet)  
Frontage 710 Depth 275  
or approx. acreage \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)  
1986

13. Condition: Excellent \_\_\_\_ Good X Fair \_\_\_\_ Deteriorated \_\_\_\_ No longer in existence \_\_\_\_
14. Alterations: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land \_\_\_\_ Scattered buildings \_\_\_\_ Densely built-up X  
Residential X Industrial \_\_\_\_ Commercial \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
16. Threats to site: None known X Private development \_\_\_\_ Zoning \_\_\_\_ Vandalism \_\_\_\_  
Public Works project \_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
17. Is the structure: On its original site? X Moved? \_\_\_\_ Unknown? \_\_\_\_
18. Related features: \_\_\_\_\_

#### SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Harry and Virginia Robinson residence is one of the oldest estates in the City, having been constructed in 1910. While some sources list the Los Angeles architectural firm of Sumner P. Hunt and Silas R. Burns as architects of the "Italian bungalow," others credit Nathaniel Dryden, Mrs. Robinson's father and designer of the famed El Miradero, the lavish estate of Leslie Brand in Glendale, with the work. Owned and occupied by Mrs. Robinson until her death in 1977, the home was maintained in a grand manner until that time, with a staff of more than ten servants. The central hall bisects the residence, which contains a dining area, living room, library, bedroom suite and dressing area, a kitchen and morning room. There are seven fireplaces located throughout the house. Staff quarters and a guest house were added to the property in 1927. The elegant classical detailing of the residence is intact, and the gardens, which contain rare palms and other exotic specimens are well-maintained. Mrs. Robinson presided over the Robinson's department store empire after husband's death in 1932 until she retired at age eight-five. A famous hostess as well, she was involved in several philanthropic and charitable activities in Southern California.

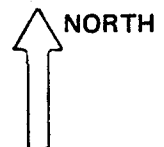
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)  
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure 2  
Economic/Industrial \_\_\_\_ Exploration/Settlement \_\_\_\_  
Government \_\_\_\_ Military \_\_\_\_  
Religion \_\_\_\_ Social/Education \_\_\_\_

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

City of Beverly Hills building permits  
Los Angeles County Tax Assessor records  
Architectural Record, December 1913  
Los Angeles Times, various dates  
Westways, August 1986

22. Date form prepared November, 1986  
By (name) C. McAvoy & L. Heumann  
Organization City of Beverly Hills  
Address: 450 N. Crescent Dr.  
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210  
Phone: (213) 550-4881

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



See continuation sheet

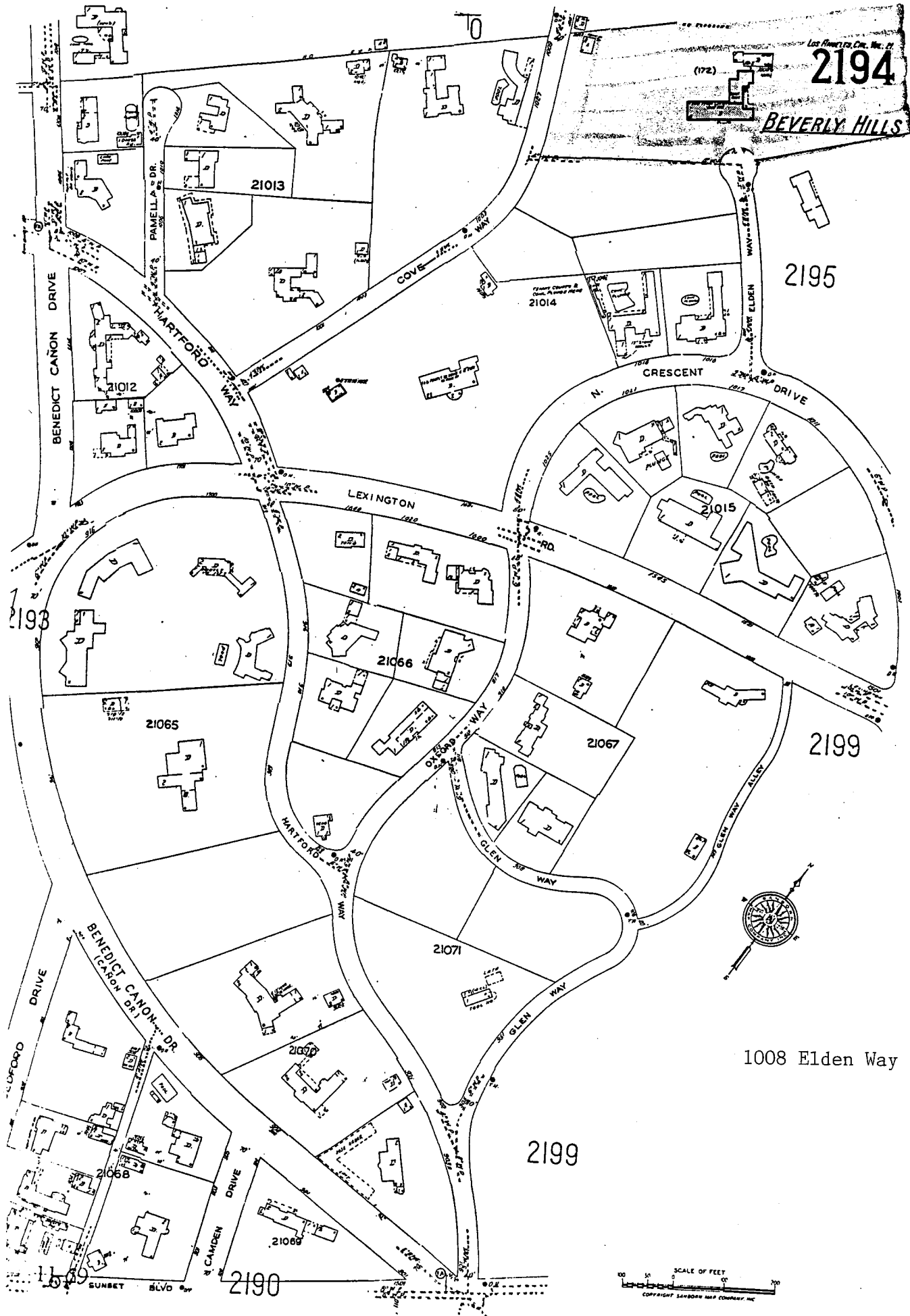
CONTINUATION SHEET: 1008 Elden Way

7b. Description:

parapet with urns tops this portion of the denticulated cornice. The side bays contain casement windows with wrought iron grilles.

Added in 1927, the servants quarters are located east of the walled garden. Also Mediterranean in style, they are stuccoed and tile roofed. Notable features include a quoined archway for vehicular passage and a second story loggia.

On six landscaped acres, the house and its outbuildings are relatively unchanged since their construction. The principal alteration to the main house was the addition of a billiard room in 1929. The pavilion has recently been rehabilitated and may not be totally accurate in its restoration. The gardens are maintained by the Los Angeles County Arboretum.



## CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code: 1S

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or # *Harry and Virginia Robinson Estate*

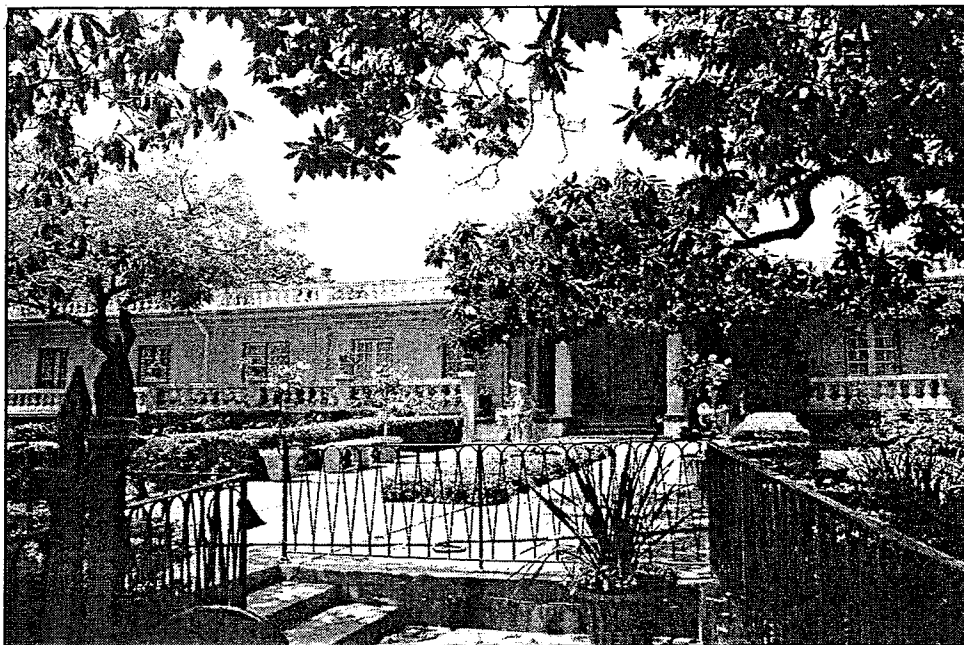
☐ Continuation ☒ Update

P2. Location: *1008 Elden Way*

### B10 Significance:

*This building appears in excellent condition with no significant alterations visible since the property was last evaluated in the 1985-1986 survey. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and remains eligible for local listing or designation.*

P5b Description/Date of Photo: *June, 2004*



P8. Recorded by: *Jan Ostashay, Peter Moruzzi, PCR Services, One Venture, Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92618*

P9. Date Recorded: *Tuesday, June 01, 2004*