

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 0213-019

HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 11370100/3771260 B _____
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: None
2. Historic name: Brown; Herb Nacio Residence
3. Street or rural address: 616 North Beverly Dr.
City Beverly Hills Zip 90210 County Los Angeles
4. Parcel number: 4444-019-007
5. Present Owner: _____ Address: _____
City _____ Zip _____ Ownership is: Public _____ Private _____
6. Present Use: Residential Original use: Residential

DESCRIPTION

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

A fine example of the Southern American Colonial Revival style, this is a two story, wood frame residence. It is sheathed with horizontal siding, and its side gable roof is hidden by an X-patterned balustrade. The facade is dominated by a five bay veranda defined by six colossal Tuscan columns. Symmetry governs the placement of the openings, with full-size casements topped by transoms in the ground floor bays and six-over-one double-hung sash in the upper bays. Corbelled window boxes and shutters adorn the second floor openings. In a departure from this scheme, the central bay contains an elaborate entry consisting of an eight-panel door, sidelights and a fan light, and a broken scroll pediment with an urn. One story wings, terminated by paired pilasters, extend to either side of the brick-paved veranda. A brick chimney rises up the south elevation. With the exception of an addition to the north wing, there are no major visible alterations. The house is set far back from the street, facing a broad swath of lawn. Hedges and mature trees frame the property.



8. Construction date: 1922
Estimated _____ Factual X
9. Architect McClurg; Vern B.
10. Builder Ellis; R.E.
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 100 Depth 357
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
1986

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

SIGNIFICANCE

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

The 600 block of Beverly Drive was one of the most popular residential streets for film stars and directors of the silent era. Just north of the Colonial Revival home built for Wheeler Oakman and Priscilla Dean was the residence of Herb Nacio Brown, a noted musician of the era. Architect of the Colonial Revival residence, built in 1922, was Vern. B. McClurg; the contractor was R. E. Ellis. Brown, an American composer, was a former real estate man when he joined M.G.M. at the start of the sound era. His scores include such well known songs as "Singin' in the Rain" and "Temptation." The residence then became the home of director Ernst Lubitsch. Lubitsch began his career in the United States during the silent era, with such successes as Lady Windemere's Fan for Warner Brothers. During the sound era he did most of his work for Paramount, where he was also production manager in 1935. He was awarded a special Academy Award for his twenty-five year contribution to the industry in 1937. An intact example of a prominent style of Beverly Hills architecture during its initial period of growth and development, the home was featured in an early real estate promotional brochure by the Frank Meline Company publicizing the area.

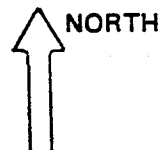
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure 2
Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education _____

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

City of Beverly Hills building permits
Beverly Hills Citizen, various dates
Katz, Ephraim. The Film Encyclopedia.
(1979).

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

616 North Beverly Dr.

BEVERLY

2161

21229

21227

21228

21230

2162

CARMELITA AV. 2150

DRIVE
N. BEVERLY

DRIVE
N. CANON

2159

SCALE OF FEET
0 50 100
COPYRIGHT SANBORN MAP COMPANY INC.

11-69

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary #

HRI #

Trinomial

NRHP Status Code: DEMO

Page 1 of 1 Resource Name or # *Herb Nacio Brown Residence*

☐ Continuation ☒ Update

P2. Location: *616 North Beverly Dr.*

B10 Significance:

This property was demolished since it was last evaluated in the 1985-1986 survey..

P5b Description/Date of Photo:

Demolished

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

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