

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

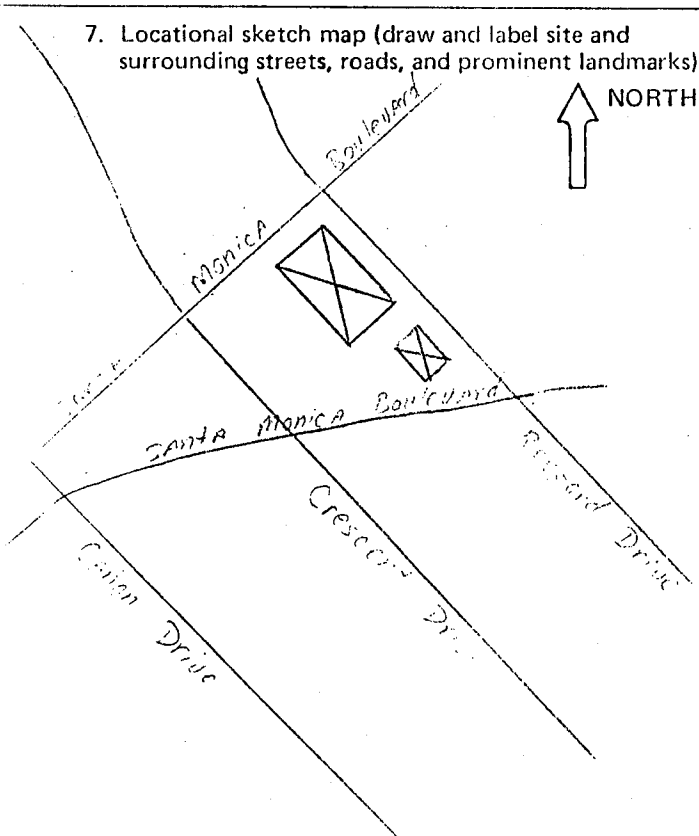
1. Common name: BEVERLY HILLS CITY HALL 19-0213-5
2. Historic name, if known: Beverly Hills City Hall
3. Street or rural address: 450 North Crescent Drive
- City: Beverly Hills ZIP: 90210 County: Los Angeles
4. Present owner, if known: city of Beverly Hills Address: 450 North Crescent Drive
- City: Beverly Hills ZIP: 90210 Ownership is: Public ☒ Private ☐
5. Present Use: municipal government offices Original Use: municipal government offices
- Other past uses: has housed the Red Cross, public library and an emergency hospital

DESCRIPTION

6. Briefly describe the present physical appearance of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This is a reinforced concrete structure, the main part of the building being three stories high, and the tower nine stories, and the two wings in the "H" shaped structure being two and a half stories. There is a terraced walkway and landscaped garden leading to the building. Architectural style is Spanish Renaissance as expressed in the ornamental encrustations around the arched entrance way, around the ninth level of the tower, and in the frieze atop the third floor. The parapet of the entire structure is undulating and highly decorated. Atop the tower is an aqua, tiled dome visible for a great distance. An adjacent fire department building, constructed at the same time, utilizes the same Spanish motif.

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



8. Approximate property size:

Lot size (in feet) Frontage _____
Depth _____
or approx. acreage 3.96

9. Condition: (check one)

a. Excellent ☒ b. Good ☐ c. Fair ☐
d. Deteriorated ☐ e. No longer in existence ☐

10. Is the feature a. Altered? ☒ b. Unaltered? ☐

11. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary)

a. Open land ☐ b. Scattered buildings ☐
c. Densely built-up ☐ d. Residential ☐
e. Commercial ☒ f. Industrial ☐
g. Other ☐

12. Threats to site:

a. None known ☒ b. Private development ☐
c. Zoning ☐ d. Public Works project ☐
e. Vandalism ☐ f. Other ☐

13. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s): September 1976

NOTE: The following (Items 14-19) are for structures only.

14. Primary exterior building material: a. Stone ☐ b. Brick ☐ c. Stucco ☐ d. Adobe ☐ e. Wood ☐
f. Other ☒ reinforced concrete
15. Is the structure: a. On its original site? ☒ b. Moved? ☐ c. Unknown? ☐
16. Year of initial construction 1931 This date is: a. Factual ☒ b. Estimated ☐
17. Architect (if known): Koerner and Gage (with Austin and Ashley)
18. Builder (if known): Herbert M. Baruch Company
19. Related features: a. Barn ☐ b. Carriage house ☐ c. Outhouse ☐ d. Shed(s) ☐ e. Formal garden(s) ☐
f. Windmill ☐ g. Watertower/tankhouse ☐ h. Other ☒ adjacent fire station i. None ☐

SIGNIFICANCE

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

Until 1932, when the city of Beverly Hills moved into its new city hall, the municipality had owned no government structure of its own. The new structure immediately became--and remains today--the center of the city's government. It housed not only administrative offices but also an emergency hospital, city jail, school board, police department and the public library.

Architecturally, the design is a very well-balanced and attractive adaptation of Spanish motifs to meet modern architectural demands. It provides a constant reminder of the hispanic heritage of the community and, with its tile-domed central tower, is literally a focal point of the Civic Center.

22. (cont.) 1930, Page 51.

21. Main theme of the historic resource: (Check only one): a. Architecture ☐ b. Arts & Leisure ☐
c. Economic/Industrial ☐ d. Exploration/Settlement ☐ e. Government ☒ f. Military ☐
g. Religion ☐ h. Social/Education ☐

22. Sources: List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews, and their dates:

Basten, Fred. Beverly Hills: Portrait of a Fabled City. Los Angeles: Dougl West Publishers, 1975. Benedict, Pierce, editor. History of Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills: Cawston-Meier Publishers, 1934. Los Angeles Times, March 15 1931, V, 1; April 24, 1932, I, 15. Southwest Builder and Contractor, November (cont.)

23. Date form prepared: 10/1976 By (name): Dennis Smith-Tom Sitton
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